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Saturday February 17 1996

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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,478

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Interview

## Joan Armatrada: my private world

Outlook page 17

Boxing

## Frank Keating on Ben

Profile

## David Hare in retreat

Outlook page 18



## Tugs fight to stop slick from tanker polluting wildlife reserves

# Disaster alert after oil spill



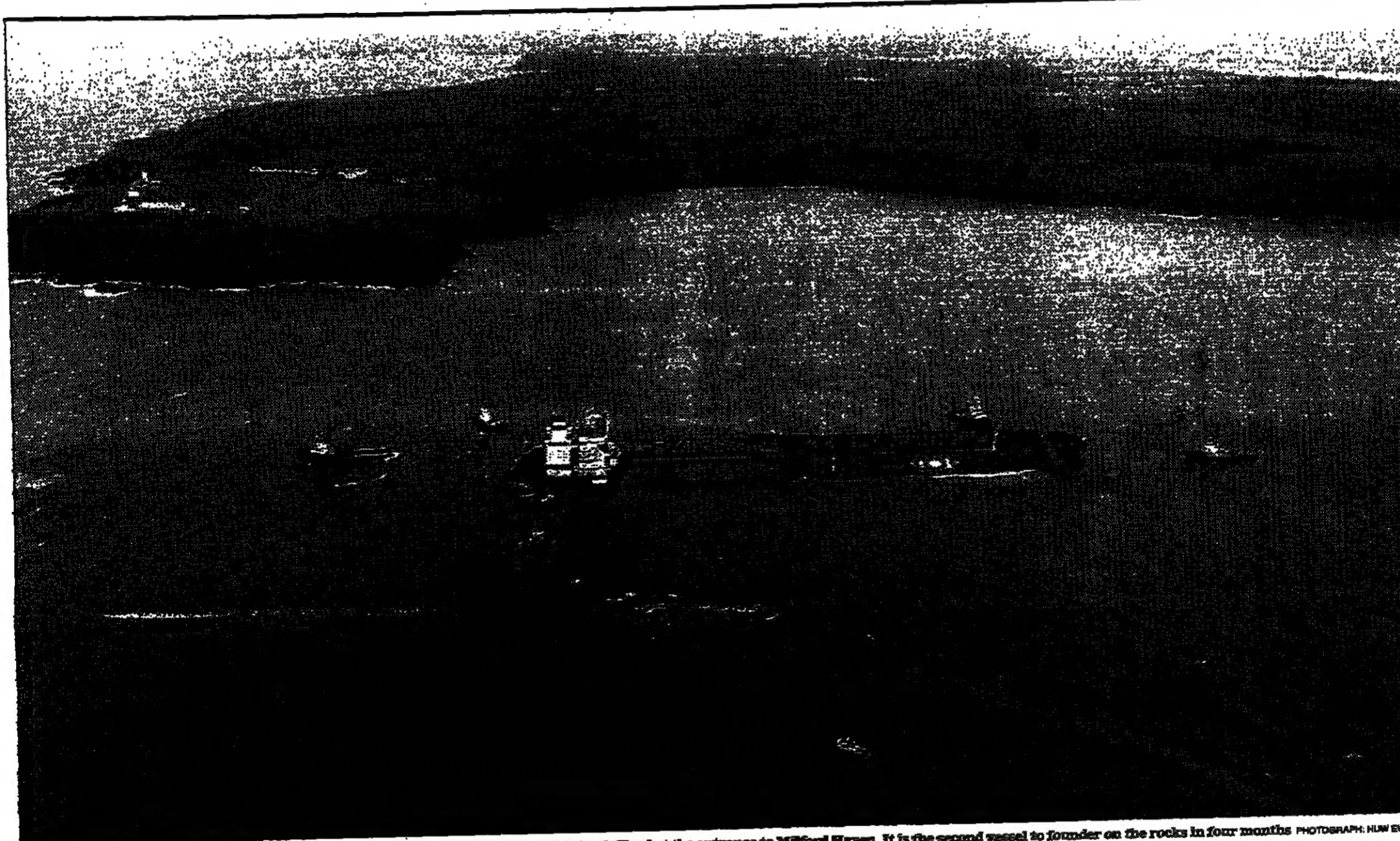
### Editor wins top award

Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger was named yesterday as editor of the year in the What The Papers Say awards.

The panel of judges from Granada Television and the BBC said he "came to his job just over a year ago bringing with him the advantages of youth... Alan Rusbridger was responsible as deputy for launching the Guardian's tabloid section. He has brought the same creativity to the broadsheet section, making it a clear and enjoyable read, highlighting each day's strengths in style.

"It is unusual for so many changes in design, personnel and emphasis to be achieved so soon and so smoothly — and without joining the price war."

The Daily Mail was newspaper of the year and Stuart Higgins, editor of the Sun, won the scoop of the year award for the story that the Queen had urged the Prince and Princess of Wales to begin divorce proceedings. Details, page 4



The stricken Liberian-registered oil tanker Sea Empress, abandoned by tugs, off St Ann's Head at the entrance to Milford Haven. It is the second vessel to founder on the rocks in four months. PHOTOGRAPH: NICK EVANS

Ocean Rowcott

**A** TEAM of four ocean-going tugs was last night battling to keep the stricken Liberian-registered tanker Sea Empress afloat as oil slicks broken up by high winds

threatened wildlife reserves on the coast of west Wales. At least 200 tonnes of light crude oil came ashore on local beaches in and around the Milford Haven estuary, but booms, placed around the vessel, prevented further spillage. Seven marine pollution control planes sprayed de-

tergent oil to a five-mile slick, which was drifting eastwards. Two teams of Dutch-based Alsea assessed the vessel's damaged pump room and several cargo tanks holed in the accident. Plans were under way for a smaller 30,000-tonne tanker, Star Borgen, to be brought alongside to trans-

fer some of the remaining cargo before the Sea Empress was moved into harbour. The grounding of the ship beneath St Ann's Head, the second accident in almost exactly the same spot in the last four months, immediately prompted calls for an inquiry into shipping safety standards.

The vessel has no protective outer hull and was damaged by a Russian crew working under a foreign flag of convenience. The incident began at 8pm on Thursday when the 147,000-tonne Sea Empress, managed by Glasgow company Acomariff (UK) Ltd and carrying a local pilot, approached the entrance to

Milford Haven in order to discharge its cargo of North Sea oil at the Texaco refinery. The reasons for the accident, in which 6,000 tonnes of oil spilled into the sea, were not clear last night. The engines and steering gear were reported to have been working until it ran aground.

The immediate effect of the spill appeared to be localised. Along one stretch of Freshwater beach the Turn to page 3, column 3

## £1m reward offer and 30 raids in bomb hunt

**A** REWARD of £1 million was offered yesterday in an attempt to catch the IRA Docklands bombers as more than 30 raids were carried out throughout the country. At dawn yesterday, officers from a number of police forces raided more than 30 addresses across the country, including London, Kent, Essex, and the West Midlands. A number of people were arrested. Some were later released. The arrests were not made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Commander John Grieva, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said the swoops were the result of a proactive operation based on intelligence from the security services and Special Branch. He added that the reward had been put up by members of the community whose identity he would not reveal "for obvious reasons". He said: "We will use every weapon we are given by our communities to bring terrorists to justice. Communities, when confronted by this kind of crime, can and do offer

extra resources. We know that some criminals are motivated by money and we can all use that to get the information we need." Commander Grieva said that the anti-terrorist telephone hotline had given police "some excellent leads", including further details of the blue Road flat-back lorry used to plant the bomb.

The lorry had travelled from Stranraer to Carlisle on Wednesday night of last week and was next seen at Ram on Friday morning at South Storma service station on the M25. It was then driven to waste land at River Road, Barking, where it was probably stored, before leaving for South Quay at about 4pm. The Docklands bomb exploded at 7.05pm. Commander Grieva appealed for more information about the lorry, especially where it is now. It was revealed that the trailer had travelled on the lorry had the index number 515/7H, which also refers to a Road cargo truck that had been cut up. In 1989, a terrorist fund of £1 million was set up by major businessmen in the wake of two City bombs. No one has yet been arrested for either of these bombs. A question-mark now hangs over the future of IRA prisoners serving sentences in mainland jails. A number had been transferred back to Ireland but the assumption of the bombing may affect the movement of others.

## Pressure mounts for Lyell and Waldegrave to resign

**P**RESSURE on William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, to resign in the wake of the Scott report into the arms-to-Iraq scandal mounted yesterday as Labour and Liberal Democrats signalled their determination to force the issue in the run-up to the Commons vote in 10 days time. The Prime Minister was insisting Sir Richard Scott's three year investigation had "comprehensively dismissed" the most serious allegations against senior ministers. A small group of Tory MPs were last night privately expressing unease at the ferocity of the report's criticism, including the finding that Sir Nicholas Lyell was culpable. One Tory backbencher, Rupert Allason, said the criticisms of Sir Nicholas were "unfair". Sir Teddy Taylor called on the government to take them more seriously. The report will be put to a Commons vote on Monday week, but the opposition be-

lieves that even if no ministers resign, it will still benefit, pointing out that a latest poll yesterday showed overwhelming support for resignations. In a joint press conference, the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, and the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, Menzies Campbell, urged Tory MPs to recognise Mr Waldegrave had been found guilty of deliberately misleading Parliament more than 30 times. Mr Campbell said: "It is not possible to think of any sphere of activity in which an individual could be so criticised and still retain his job." Mr Cook argued the cumulative criticism of Sir Nicholas Lyell was "the most damaging and most authoritative criticisms ever made of a law officer". It emerged last night that the Government applied severe pressure on Sir Richard Scott to tone down his criticisms. The job of leading the inquiry was assigned to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler. His increasingly sharp exchanges with the Scott team are reflected in a little-noticed letter from Sir Richard to Ian

Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary, at the beginning of the 1,800-page report. Sir Richard noted that Christopher Munkins, the inquiry secretary, had the task of dealing with senior ministers and officials. In a coded message which the Government will have no difficulty in deciphering, he said those who knew the man had come to understand that Mr Munkins "cannot be intimidated". Senior civil servants, meanwhile, challenged ministers to say who was to blame. "Our major concern remains that Government ministers do not seek to shift the blame inherent in Sir Richard's criticisms onto Civil Service shoulders," said Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association. Mr Major promised some low key changes, including better dissemination of intelligence information, but Mr Lang rejected a Freedom of Information Act. He added: "FIS have been used for a long time and will continue to be used".

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Inside







Atlantic grey seal



Gullinmot



Redshank



Razorbill



Curlew



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Sheldrake



Gannet

THE extreme South-west coastline of Wales is one of Europe's most ecologically fragile and theoretically protected areas, writes John Vidal.

Protection of Birds and the National Trust properties. The islands of Skomer and Grassholm are European-designated nature reserves.

the oil industry yesterday of complacency and cost-cutting, and called for an investigation into the incident.

learned any bloody lessons at all. "These incidents keep happening," said Dr Fellet, who called for better risk assessment, tighter regulations on the movement of hazardous cargoes, and "tanker exclusion zones from Britain's most sensitive coastal areas."

important breeding site for better-known marine life such as grey seals, said a spokesman for the Dyfed Wildlife Trust.

extremely vulnerable to oil pollution and feed in the waters of the haven.

and bottle-nosed dolphins are also at risk. Phil Rowthorn, the RSPB's head of policy operations, said: "We are calling on the Government to conduct a full investigation of this incident in what is one of the most important and sensitive marine areas in Europe."

more than half a million sea birds will be returning to the area to breed, but it is still of great concern.

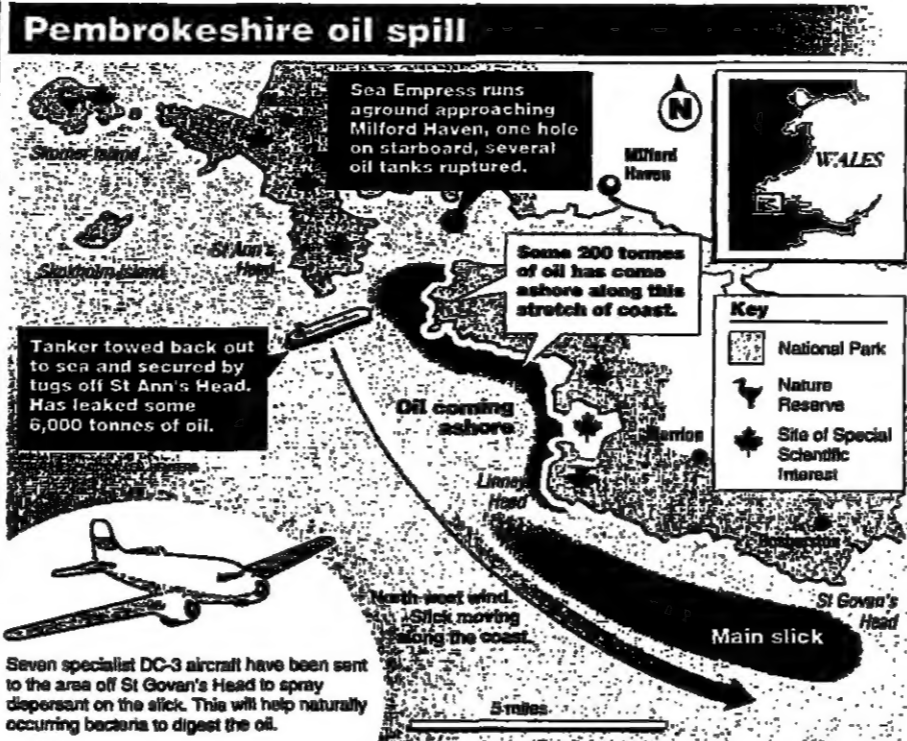
# Playing Russian roulette with a natural paradise

Inquiry will examine failings of tough anti-pollution measures brought in after Braer disaster

Keith Harper Transport Editor

AN INQUIRY was launched by the Department of Transport last night into why tough measures drawn up for ships in British waters after the Braer disaster three years ago failed to prevent the Milford Haven incident.

around British coasts. The code stressed the importance of testing ships' essential systems and prompt reporting to coastal authorities when experiencing difficulties which could lead to pollution.



Workers clear up some of the 200 tonnes of oil so far washed ashore from the grounded Sea Empress between St Ann's Head and Linney Head



PHOTOGRAPH WINSTON BYWORTH

Workers clear up some of the 200 tonnes of oil so far washed ashore from the grounded Sea Empress between St Ann's Head and Linney Head

Tugs fight to prevent pollution disaster as tanker oil slick heads for beaches

overwhelmed the salt air. Lying at the mouth of the estuary, the low hull of the Sea Empress was clearly visible wallowing in the afternoon swell.

tion of oil off the beaches, and sheets of gauze to soak up slicks that had already contaminated the beaches.

"because of the national importance of its geology and marine wildlife". There was no sign of the cormorants, choughs, puffins or grey seals promised on the map of local beauty spots.

Numast, the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers, said the problem was partly due to the number of ships working under foreign flags of convenience which were not subject to sufficient inspection.

to determine the cause of the accident but we are working closely with the authorities to find out what happened.

## Lloyds TSB profits at £1.65bn but union warns of job cuts ahead

Pauline Springett

LOYDS TSB started the bank reporting season yesterday by announcing pre-tax profits of £1.65 billion for last year amid union warnings the newly merged group will shed 10,000 jobs and 650 branches.

UK bank profits	
Expected profits of UK banks, £m	
Lloyds TSB	1,650
Barclays	2,200
Nat West	1,900
Midland	950
Abbey Nat	1,000



fended the sum. "I don't think it is at all exceptional," he said. The provision was mainly for paying for expected staff cuts, disposing of redundant premises, and streamlining computer systems.

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**Her sexuality has been a constant source of speculation but no one appears to know for sure who she has loved and her songs are deliberately neutral, the lovers non-gender specific.**

Joan Armatrading interviewed

**Outlook**

page 77

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**LAST FEW DAYS**

Former health secretary denies 'framing' doctor over death of patient flown 200 miles to find a bed

# Libel court puts Bottomley in box

Sally Weale

**V**IRGINIA Bottomley, the former health secretary, appeared in court yesterday to deny allegations that she and others "framed" a hospital consultant over a patient's death in an attempt to distract media attention from a crisis in hospital beds.

In a rare appearance in the witness box by a cabinet minister, Mrs Bottomley was called to give evidence to the High Court in London by lawyers representing Mirror Group Newspapers, which is fighting a libel action over an article last March which branded the consultant "Doctor Dolittle".

Anthony Percy, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, alleges that he was made a scapegoat for the patient's death and that Mrs Bottomley indicated in a memo that his role in the affair should be "flagged up" after learning that he was to be censured.

The patient, 45-year-old Malcolm Murray, died at Leeds General Infirmary last March after suffering a severe brain injury. He had been flown 200 miles from Queen Mary's because a neu-

rosurgical bed could not be found for him in the South-east.

The court heard that Mrs Bottomley, who spent 2 1/2 hours in the box, had noted after reading a copy of the draft report on the incident: "What about the consultant refusing to appear?"

George Carman QC, for MGN, asked her if there was any truth in the suggestion that "in a very improper and unethical way" she had made

**'As far as this individual case was concerned, it was deeply worrying'**

the comment to frame Mr Percy and "make him a political football or sacrificial lamb".

Mrs Bottomley replied: "It's totally without substance and it's inconceivable I would respond in such a way."

Mr Percy, of Bickley, Kent, was on call the night Mr Murray was brought in but was not asked to go to the hospital and gave what administrative support he could over the telephone.

nes libel, says its story was a fair and accurate account of a report by South Thames regional health authority.

Mrs Bottomley, now Heritage Secretary, dismissed Mr Percy's claim that she and others had used him to distract public attention from the problem of intensive care beds in the South-east.

She said she was so concerned about intensive care in general that she had called a meeting with leading medical figures and a report on the issue had been commissioned by her department.

"As far as this individual case was concerned, it was deeply worrying. Not only had somebody died, but the circumstances as I understood them worried me greatly — a junior doctor rigging round a number of hospitals and then the patient being flown to Leeds."

Mrs Bottomley insisted she had not influenced what went into the report on Mr Murray's death, and had nothing to do with the decision to censure him.

Her query about "the consultant refusing to appear" merely reflected her concern about publicly mentioning Mr Percy's role unless it had been substantiated.

The hearing continues on Monday.



Virginia Bottomley leaving the High Court yesterday after giving evidence in the libel case

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

## Another cold snap coming

**S**NOW and freezing temperatures are forecast for this weekend, and more snow is expected next week.

Most of Britain could be blanketed in snow by Sunday, with temperatures as low as minus 3C, the London Weather Centre said.

There would be heavy rain and cold winds through Saturday, said a spokesman. "There could be well be snow spreading from the North down through most of the country during Sunday."

Next week the South-east would take the brunt of the freeze.

Forecasters said this winter may soon compare with the coldest of the century, 1946-47, when snow fell from December to March.

AA Roadwatch said roads across the country would be gritted overnight.

South Wales Electricity, criticised two weeks ago when thousands of homes were left without power in freezing weather, is on alert for the next cold spell.

"We will have all available people on standby," a spokesman said. "Extra supplies of repair materials have been located throughout the region, and we are as prepared as we can be."

### News in brief

#### 20 held over fake passports

**P**OLICE have arrested 20 people after finding fake and stolen passports buried in a back garden, it emerged yesterday. Officers from the West Midlands involved in Operation Boss, carried out over the past week, were investigating handbag thefts in Birmingham city centre.

Those investigations led them to arrests in that region and in Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

It was during an arrest that police uncovered the bundle of passports. The discovery has led to the deportation of a number of people, although police will not confirm how many or if they were part of an organised immigration fraud. A police spokesman said: "A number of women will be appearing before the courts in Birmingham and Nuneaton over the next two weeks in connection with the investigations."

#### Mountaineers back protest

**B**RITISH mountaineers yesterday condemned colleagues employed to help evict the Newbury bypass tree climbers as "shameful" after national officers of the British Mountaineering Council and leading sportsmen described the Newbury protesters as "courageous defenders of the environment."

"If we do not disown and ostracise these mercenaries and renegades we are undermining the very reason for our existence and helping to accelerate the destruction of the very places we hold dear. They have nothing to do with climbing," author and climber Jim Perrin told the first British Mountain Festival at Llandudno.

"They are not welcome among us." Some protesters have been living in trees for six months and have built dozens of tree houses and miles of aerial pathways to delay the bypass. They were applauded by delegates. — *John Vidal*

#### Madonna sponsors show



**MADONNA**, the American singer and actress, has emerged as one of the principal sponsors of a major exhibition of the paintings by Jean-Michel Basquiat (left) at the Serpentine Gallery, London. Basquiat, who came to prominence in New York in the early 1980s, was one of America's most feted young painters when he died, aged 27, in 1988 from a heroin overdose. Madonna was one of his closest friends.

The exhibition from March 6 until April 21 is also sponsored by Ally Capellino and European Investment managers in association with the Guardian and Kiss 100 FM radio station.

#### Sun's scoop of the year

**S**TUART Higgins, editor of the Sun, yesterday received the scoop of the year award in the What the Papers Say awards for December's exclusive revelation that the Queen had urged the Prince and Princess of Wales to seek a divorce. The Daily Mail was named newspaper of the year, praised as a "technically brilliant product" which bucked the trend of falling tabloid sales.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, praised national newspapers for their efforts to ensure publication last Saturday despite the IRA bomb, which damaged the Guardian's production plant and led to the evacuation of many newsrooms at Canary Wharf.

The other awards were: Commentator of the year: Anatole Kaletsky (the Times); General pleasure award: Bel Littlejohn (Guardian); Craig Brown, Wallace Arnold (Independent on Sunday); Gerald Barry award: Lord Deedes (Daily Telegraph); BBC Peter Black award for broadcasting writer of the year: Thomas Sutcliffe (the Independent). The ceremony is to be shown on BBC2 tonight at 6.30pm. — *Andrew Cull*

#### Book thief don pays £160,000

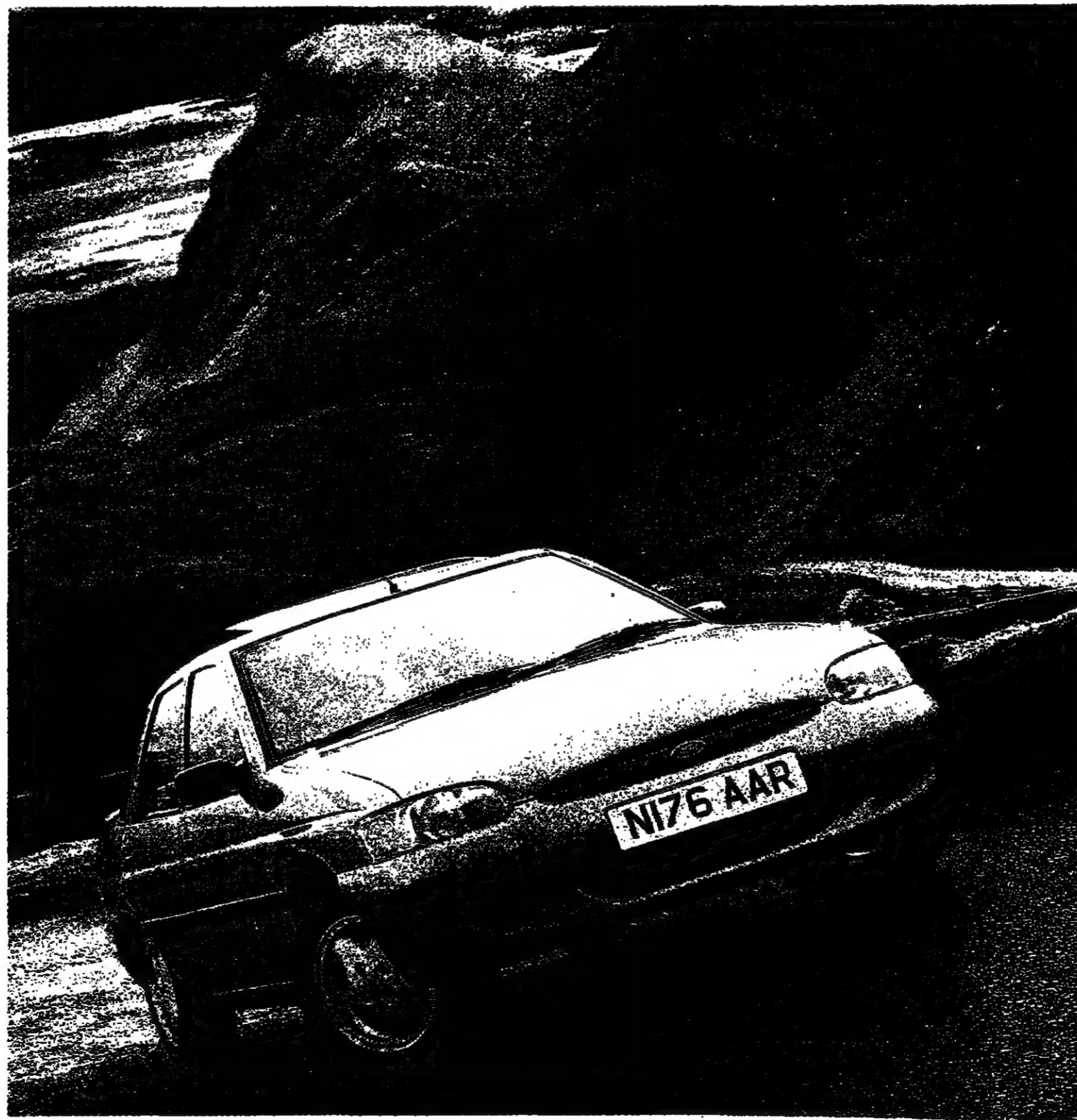
**A**N Oxford don, who paid off his mortgage by selling rare antique books stolen from college libraries, was yesterday ordered by Northampton crown court to pay £160,000 in compensation.

Part-time music lecturer and Radio 3 presenter, Dr Simon Heighes, stole 78 books and manuscripts over four years from Christ Church and Queen's Colleges and convinced antique experts they belonged to him.

One book, a 1686 first edition copy of Sir Isaac Newton's Principia Mathematica which had been kept by Christ Church College library for more than 300 years, was sold for £25,000. Heighes, 33, from Oxford, was jailed for two years in December after admitting six counts of theft, five of obtaining property by deception and one of attempted deception. Another 113 offences were taken into consideration.

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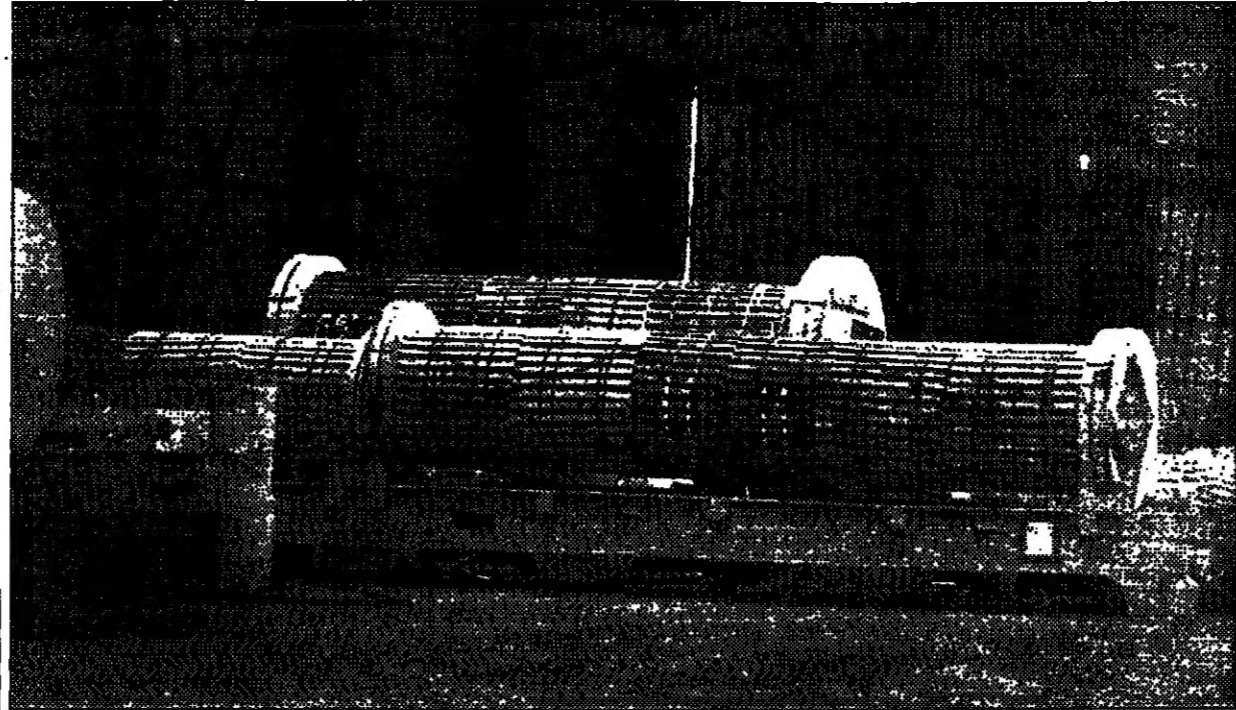
# Whitehall tried to hide supergun blunders

David Pallister on a catalogue of intelligence failures uncovered by Scott

**W**HITEHALL officials altered drafts of a Commons statement in an attempt to conceal the extent of government knowledge of the Iraqi supergun, Sir Richard Scott's report has revealed.

The judge also criticises the former head of MI6, Sir Colin McColl, for apparently attempting to absolve MI6 from blame over the failure to act sooner on intelligence reports.

While the supergun barrels were only seized by Customs at Teesside in April 1990, Sir Richard said that suspicious should have aroused as early as June 1988. By October 1989 officials knew steel tubes made by the Walter Somers firm at Halesowen, West Midlands, were probably for artill-



British-made barrels destined to form part of the Iraqi supergun which were discovered by Customs officials at Teesside in April 1990



PHOTOGRAPH: CARL RUTHERFORD

Sir Colin is taken to task for an incorrect briefing to Sir Percy Cradock, the foreign policy adviser to the then prime minister, Lady Thatcher. Sir Colin suggested an MI6 briefing note of October 1989 which said it was known since June 1988 that Walter Somers was probably involved in supplying the supergun barrels was simply a mix-up by a "very junior" officer. Sir Richard said that "on one reading of the purpose of his letter, it was

a defensive operation to seek to distance SIS [MI6] from responsibility for the failure to act... Sir Colin's response to the inquiry was: "The job of SIS is to produce hard intelligence." The first government information — "fragments", according to Sir Richard — of the supergun was supplied by the Tory MP, Sir Hal Miller. After being alerted to the suspicious order from Iraq by Walter Somers in June 1988, Sir Hal conveyed his concerns to the

MoD and the DTI. Within days the information was passed to MI6 and then MI5. An MoD expert, Bill Weir, thought the tubes might be used for military research. An official in the Defence Intelligence Service suggested they might have nuclear research implications. But in the absence of firm information, the DTI said the tubes did not need export licences. In these exchanges officials failed to make proper records

and did not pass on the information to the DTI's special units looking at sensitive exports. "The Iraqi connection should have sounded alarm bells," Sir Richard said. Mr Weir continued to talk to MI6 and MI5 officials and two briefing notes in 1989 referred to the Walter Somers order as possible guns. MI5 thought it was no concern of theirs. During 1989 a Mr Q of MI6 became "the principal bound-

in the hunt to uncover the details of the Iraqi long-range project," Sir Richard said. His main task was to find the "monster" barrels. "The barrels," Sir Richard remarked, "were in fact on the shop floor at Walter Somers." By November, from other intelligence sources, the details of Iraq's supergun plans — Project Babylon — were circulated around Whitehall, including the Cabinet Office. But it was not until March 1990 that

Walter Somers' name was attached to the intelligence. After the seizure by Customs officials of the tubes at Teesside Mr Ridley on his statement to the House. Going through eight drafts, the statement eventually excluded the information about Sir Hal's worries in 1988 and cut out at least five months of government knowledge. "Parliament could, and should have been told," Sir Richard said.

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## Links between MoD and arms firms criticised

Air chief met Iraqis as BAe executive, reports Richard Norton-Taylor

**T**HE propriety of the close, almost symbiotic, links between arms companies and the Ministry of Defence — the "revolving doors" syndrome — is pointedly questioned in passages buried in Sir Richard Scott's 1,800-page report.

He learned that in one case a senior RAF officer met prospective Iraqi clients as a consultant to a private firm. On another occasion an executive of a large defence company seconded to the MoD reverted to his former job for a few days so he could visit a Baghdad arms fair.

In 1986, at the height of the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraqi air force approached a British engineering firm, Tripod, for help in aviation medical research and flight simulators. Tripod approached the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine (IAM), then headed by Air Vice-Marshal Peter Howard, for advice.

Tripod told him that high-ranking Iraqi officers wanted to visit his institute. He replied that though it was inappropriate for the Iraqis to visit the IAM, he could meet them in a London hotel. There he was introduced as an RAF consultant in aviation medicine.

The air vice-marshal — who said he was unaware of government controls — told the inquiry he was "present

[at the meeting with the Iraqis] as a consultant to Tripod and did not represent the Royal Air Force or the Government".

Sir Richard describes the explanation as unsatisfactory, and that the meeting with the Iraqis was ill-judged. He says he accepts the air vice-marshal's denial that Tripod paid him.

In 1988 David Hastie, a senior British Aerospace executive, was seconded to the MoD's arms sales department, where he became involved in marketing Hawk, a BAe aircraft, while the company continued to pay his salary. Sir Richard says that Mr Hastie — through no fault of his own — was involved "in a position of potential conflict between interest and duty".

He says the point "is not simply an ancient principle of equity (which it is) but ought also, in my opinion, to be regarded as a necessary principle to be applied in all secondments to government services from industry. In the case of Mr Hastie the principle was evidently lost sight of".

Sir Richard notes that Sir Colin Chandler, then chief MoD arms salesman, and now chief executive of Vickers, and Mr Hastie, now its international sales executive, disagreed with his views.

In 1989, Mr Hastie reverted to becoming a BAe executive to attend the Baghdad arms fair which the Foreign Office had made out of bounds to MoD officials.

This led Alan Clark, then defence minister, to deny in the Commons that any "officials" from the MoD attended the fair.

## Lawyers see end to gag orders

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**S**IR RICHARD'S report would mean the end for "gagging orders" covering whole classes of documents in criminal cases, senior lawyers said yesterday.

Edmund Lawson, a leading QC specialising in white-collar crime, said Sir Richard's call for an end to class public interest immunity certificates — like those signed by ministers in the Matrix Churchill case — was the "final nail in the coffin" for their use in criminal cases.

Sir Richard argues for a tougher stance by judges faced with attempts to shield official documents from disclosure. In an area where the law is judge-made, he says, his interpretation of the law could be adopted without the need for legislation: indeed legislation would be undesirable.

In the Matrix Churchill case ministers claimed immunity as a class for advice between ministers and civil servants, communications between ministers, and security service and intelligence documents.

Class claims were also asserted in the first arms to Iraq case, involving Ordix. The defendants, who pleaded guilty, later had their convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal because relevant documents had not been disclosed.

Sir Richard would allow class claims in civil cases, and in criminal cases individual documents could still be protected from disclosure on the basis of their contents — so-called contents claims.

But even in those cases there would be no balancing exercise between the public interest in keeping documents secret and the public interest in not convicting an innocent person.

The only question to be asked was: is there a real possibility that the document would assist the defence?

Sir Richard says: "In criminal trials, once it has been decided that a document might be of assistance to the defence, that should be the end of the PII."

If that meant disclosing the identity of an informant or information that would endanger national security, the prosecution always had the option of dropping the case.

This goes further than the latest advice to the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell on the current state of the law.

His advice, from the Government's senior counsel, Stephen Richards QC, does not exclude class claims in criminal cases, and preserves a balancing exercise.

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Economic strides have failed to stem a drift away from González in the Spanish Socialists' heartland of Andalucía, writes Adela Gooch in Algamitas

Loyalists vie with youthful doubters in Felipe country

SIXTY miles east of Seville in the Sierra del Tablon, this is deep in Felipe country. "Even if I were the only Socialist left in Spain, even if my arms and legs had been cut off, I'd vote for him," Alberto Dovargane says.

Here, despite the reports of widespread corruption and wrongdoing by his administration, the Spanish prime minister, Felipe González, still commands striking loyalty. Mr Dovargane, a pensioner aged 68, is typical of the hardcore Socialist voter in the village of Algamitas (population 1,500), which regularly returns the highest proportion of Socialist votes in the country — up to 90 per cent.

"There is no hunger," he says. "People's pockets are full. I spent 12 years as an emigrant, working in Germany. Thanks to Felipe, I can live well here now." The village, nestled in a valley between the mountains, looks prosperous enough, with new houses, good facilities and streets lined with orange and lemon trees. But despite a

winter for the olive harvest," says David Smith, a British travel agent who owns a farmhouse hotel just outside the village. "They're good, hard-working people when there is work to be had." The local priest, Antonio Ceballos, aged 31, sums up the past 13 years, two weeks before the general election on March 3, which the polls suggest will be won by the conservative opposition Popular Party (PP). It is even possible that the Socialists will lose in their traditional stronghold of Andalucía, which holds regional elections on the same day.

"Socially, the advantages have been enormous," Fr Ceballos says. "Everyone is fed, clothed and educated. I've been working in the area for three years and no one has ever asked me for financial help." "The negative side? Well, unemployment. People work six months a year and then claim benefit. There isn't a real sustainable economy."

Much of the credit for the high Socialist vote here is due to Fernando Cuevas, aged 38, the mayor of Algamitas since 1983 and a committed Socialist much liked and admired by the villagers.

"Progress has been extraordinary," Mr Cuevas says. "Twenty years ago few houses in the village had bathrooms; now they all do. Fifteen years ago there were only four telephones; now there are 200. In 1982, before the Socialists came in, only 15 to 20 per cent of the population went on to secondary education; now 90 per cent do. When I was a student only 12 per cent went to university, now most do. Forty years ago the village was owned by four families; now the emigrants have come back to buy a little bit of land."

"Of course, we need to cut the deficit, stop waste; but just ensuring one multinational pays proper taxes does that better than cutting down on a small businessman and the benefit holder." Yet opinion in the village is beginning to split along the same lines as the rest of the country. The older, non-emigrant are still loyal to the Socialists; those under 40 are drifting away. "I don't know about voting for the PP," says a young



Scraping a living... Grape harvesters in Andalucía, whose economy relies on seasonal migration. PHOTOGRAPHY: FIN COSTELLO

We suffered a four-year drought and the Socialists spent 1 billion pesetas (£5.4 million) on a new pipeline, bringing water to the area. The PP would never do that.

"I have no doubt that the majority of Socialists are honest. But others came in and joined the party to make their fortune, as if this were Hollywood. They have let us all down," the mayor says. "It's not Felipe González's fault that there were one or two rotten apples in the barrel. He can't keep his eye on everyone," Mr Dovargane says. As evening draws in, the older people cluster around the main square. They mention how tranquil and peaceful life in Algamitas is. But it was not always so. Mr Dovargane says: "I was one of nine children. My parents were shot in the civil war, taken away to Falange [the official Fascist party] headquarters, and I never

saw them again. I respect everyone's views. But how can I vote for the right?" In rural communities such as this, history is not easily forgotten.

Of nine council members, seven are Socialist, one United Left — the party made up mainly of former Communists — and one PP. "The PP here are the descendants of the former Franco supporters," the mayor says. "It is natural; family loyalties run deep." He acknowledges that at national level change is almost certain, but adds: "There is still so much that needs to be done in villages like this. We need 20 more years of Socialism."

Yeltsin calls a round for the vodka vote

James Meek in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN presented himself as the drinkers' friend yesterday with a pledge not to increase vodka prices. It was the latest promise from the ailing president, known to enjoy a drop of "the bitter" himself, as he continues his campaign swing through the Urals in the hope of re-election in June.

He reminded factory workers in Chelyabinsk of the long queues for vodka in the Soviet era and said that some advisers had urged him to increase the price. "I consider this incorrect," he said. "We need to find other sources to fill up the budget so as not to worry people."

The fuel-price factor has always been politically crucial in a country where beer is seen as a soft drink and wine affluence.

The ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has often promised voters cheap or free vodka and has an own-label brand. Mr Yeltsin's main rival, the Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov, claims that vodka is the only consumer item in Russia which is cheaper now than in Soviet times.

A litre of drinkable vodka can be bought in street kiosks for £2. "There are only three human rights in Russia today," Mr Zyuganov said at the Communist convention this week, which nominated him its presidential candidate.

"The right to steal, the right to get drunk, and the right to have no responsibilities."

As Mr Yeltsin campaigned, two of his former allies were

trying to come to terms with what appeared to be politically-inspired moves against them.

The former general prosecutor Alexei Lyushenko just a few months ago one of the most powerful men in Russia, was preparing to spend a second night in one of Moscow's remand prisons on suspicion of involvement in a deal by which a second-hand car dealership acquired a licence to export 25 million tonnes of oil.

Other arrests may follow as the president tries to give the impression that he is purging the administrative elite of corruption.

Meanwhile there were fears of increasing presidential control over the media as Yeltsin's second biggest channel, Russian TV, warned against a return to authoritarianism.

Speaking of the of the "widened election" that the media would decide the outcome of the election, he said: "To set up one's own pocket television company, one's own radio station, one's own newspaper, is practically to return to the time when the central committee of the Communist Party was the proprietor of all the media."

Mr Poptsov was replaced by Eduard Sagdiyev, head of the popular commercial channel TV-6, which is long on entertainment and short on news.

The other leading channel in Russia, ORT, was handed to a circle of Yeltsin-friendly businessmen in 1984 and its news programmes loyally follow the government line.

Beauty is up there in red lights, Outlook, page 19

Swedish woman refuses to deny rumours of Mitterrand love child

Alex Dural Smith in Paris

FRANCE was speculating yesterday about the motives of a Swedish woman who refuses to deny press rumours that she has a son of seven by the late president François Mitterrand.

Chris Forsne, aged 47, a television journalist based in Paris until last year, told a Swedish tabloid newspaper that she was "very, very close" to Mitterrand, who died last month from prostate cancer.

She refused to tell Aftonbladet who was the father of her son, Ravn, adding: "I believe I have good reasons to neither confirm nor deny the rumour."

Speaking from her home in the Swedish city of Gothenburg, she told the Guardian yesterday: "If I have matters to settle with anyone, I can do so without the help of the press."

French magazines are trying to prove that Mitterrand, 79 when he died, had three mistresses: one in France, one in Venice and Ms Forsne.

Anne Pinget, his French mistress, attended his funeral, with Mazarine, their 21-year-old daughter.

Aftonbladet published a picture of Ms Forsne with Ravn shortly after he was born. It also had a photograph of Ms Forsne dining with Mr and Mrs Mitterrand and their divorced son, Jean-Christophe, in 1982.

The French magazine VSD published pictures yesterday of Ravn, who is ash-blond.

This prompted speculation that he might be Jean-Christophe's son, especially since Mitterrand underwent his first prostate operation in 1976.

Remaking the Mitterrand legend, Outlook, page 19

Unhappy hippy sees his dreams go up in smoke

Swedish authorities are stepping up their fight against drugs, writes Greg McIvor

BEHIND the counter of his Happy Head Shop, Mats Ohnell is anything but happy. Since starting his business two months ago, the owner of Stockholm's first emporium for cannabis aficionados has faced eviction threats, police raids and moral indignation. Last week three plainclothes detectives slipped into his orange-walled, incense-filled parlour and, without a warrant, seized all the cannabis pipes on his shelves. Deprived of his stock, Mr Ohnell fears bankruptcy. "I've done nothing illegal but I've been branded a criminal," he says. "I don't sell drugs. I sell pipes, books and cannabis seeds, all of which are permitted by law."

Sweden has for years been tough on drugs, and pressure is building up for still stronger measures to stem a growth in narcotics abuse among teenagers. Figures released this week revealed that drug abuse rose

50 per cent among youngsters in Stockholm last year. Children as young as 10 are experimenting with marijuana and ecstasy. "The most frightening thing is that youngsters today don't see smoking cannabis as dangerous," says Mia Sundelin, head of the anti-drugs trust Hassela Solidarity. "They believe that as long as you don't inject a substance it is okay. Five years ago such attitudes hardly existed."

Official figures put the number of drug abusers at 20,000 in a population of 8.7 million, although social workers say the true figure is far higher. In Sweden all drugs are viewed as equally iniquitous, from heroin to hashish. The maximum 10-year prison sentence for possession covers all controlled substances.

The authorities deny that the attitude, rooted in Lutheran traditions, is repressive. "We are restrictive

rather than repressive. All abuse begins with soft drugs. Just concentrating on heroin and cocaine will never allow you to tackle the problem properly," Ms Sundelin said. Offenders who are caught can expect a rigorous follow-up procedure of regular urine tests.

Younger abusers are often confronted with a bald choice: be sent to an institution or accept treatment. While this approach worked relatively well in the 1970s and 1980s, integration with Europe has coincided with a relentless increase in drug inflows across the border.

Poor co-ordination between official bodies and inadequate funding are hampering counter measures. Experts warn of a social explosion within two years unless big preventative programmes are introduced.

The main worry for policymakers is that increasing numbers of youngsters are heeding the message of people like Mr Ohnell who insist that the problem is not cannabis but society's warped attitude to its users.

World news in brief

Nigeria frees BBC reporter after 24 hours detention

THE Nigerian security forces last night released the BBC correspondent in Nigeria, Hilary Anderson, after more than 24 hours in detention, writes Chris McGreal in Lagos. Ms Anderson, an American citizen who arrived in Nigeria only last week, was arrested and interrogated by

the State Security Service in Lagos on Thursday after investigating a rumour that the military leader, General Sani Abacha, had been overthrown. The story proved false and was not reported. Ms Anderson was escorted from the security police headquarters to American diplomatic premises.

Italy sets date for elections

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro dissolved both houses of parliament last night, clearing the way for a general election on April 21, writes John Hooper in Rome. The cabinet decided the date at an emergency session.

Refugees isolated

Zaire sealed off a second Rwandan refugee camp yesterday and indicated that it would continue to crack down on camp leaders opposed to repatriation and restrict the

Smugglers held

Four men have been arrested for allegedly smuggling hundreds of Iraqis into Sweden last year for 25,000 each, police said yesterday. — AP.

No going back

Portugal will return to being one hour behind most of Europe by not switching clocks back an hour on March 31. — Reuter.

Advertisement for 'Going Places' featuring Disneyland Paris. Text includes: 'A MAGICAL PLACE FOR A MAGICAL PRICE', '3 NIGHTS FOR £87 PER PERSON', 'PRICE INCLUDES CROSSING, HOTEL AND 2 DAY PASS!', and contact information '0541 556666'.

Advertisement for The Guardian newspaper. Text includes: 'To advertise in The Guardian please call 0171 239 9735'.

Advertisement for St Petersburg artists. Text includes: 'From a western perspective, it seems inconceivable that the first generation of artists to be freed from the bondage of Soviet cultural control should harbour nostalgia for totalitarian certainties, that they should hark back to "Socialist Realism".' and 'Outlook page 19'.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Riva', 'corr', 'crip', 'self-', 'ecol', and 'PHO'.

# Rivalry and corruption cripple the self-help economy

Suzanne Goldenberg in Sharifpur finds that this week's flawed election is just the latest of many ways the rulers have failed the people

**I**T IS their proudest possession, the reward after years of doing without — a television aerial lashed to the top of a spindly length of bamboo so high that the whole village can admire it.

Mohammed Muslehuddin Sarkar had been hankering after a set of his own ever since Bangladesh television went on air in 1964, and his longing grew almost unbearable six years ago after they began to arrive in the homes of his more prosperous neighbours in Sharifpur, a village just north of the capital, Dhaka.

His wife, Halima Begum, made it happen. Persuaded eight years ago by a government social worker to contribute 100 takas a month (about £1.60) to a savings scheme, she begged money off her husband, and sold milk from the cows that loiter behind their tin-roofed home until her nest-egg grew to 13,115 takas (about £215), including interest.

The family scraped together an extra few thousand takas, and six months ago the colour television was theirs. "I had never seen so much money before in my life," Halima

Begum said. "Sometimes it was very hard to save. There were times when I could not give. The children had to go to school, and I had to find the money for their books."

The savings scheme has since been withdrawn. A casualty of its own popularity, it became too expensive for the government. Halima Begum disapproves. "To my judgment, it's a bad thing. For women like us, it's our only chance to save money. If I leave it in the house, the chances are that I will spend it." So that means goodbye to the chances of acquiring a refrigerator, or (if her husband had his way) another small plot of land.

Mr Sarkar and Halima Begum were already doing better than the vast majority of the 120 million people in Bangladesh, nearly half of them so poor they eat fewer than 2,100 calories a day — the minimum for survival.

Their relatively small family of four children will probably do even better. Their eldest son is a law student — still a novelty in a village which has produced one professional in the last 10 years, an engineer now working in Kuwait.

But economists say the small measure of mobility this family enjoys owes little to any government initiative. Although it still ranks among the dozen poorest countries in the world, Bangladesh has been rising out of poverty, consigning Henry Kissinger's "international basket case" to history.

Its reputation nowadays owes more to the success of non-governmental ventures like the Grameen Bank, which keeps its 2 million mainly female borrowers out of the grip of rapacious village moneylenders, and has spawned copy-cat projects by the World Bank and other institutions. The official story, by contrast, has been one of repression and misrule.

**B**ANGLADESH will be 25 years old in December this year. Three million people died in the uprising against Pakistan; they left their children a country in which military dictators have ruled for 15 years.

During the 1980s, General Hussain Mohammed Ershad presided over a particularly

corrupt and incompetent administration. Rich factory owners siphoned off 42 per cent of the country's power supply, and much the same happened to the other essential services.

But the introduction of economic reforms after the restoration of democracy in 1991 led to modest improvements. The relatively new garment industry became the country's largest foreign exchange earner. Economic growth rose to 6.5 per cent — close to the rates that propelled Taiwan and South Korea forward and inflation fell to record lows. Foreign exchange reserves grew tenfold from 1991, while the savings rate, a crucial indicator of economic success, doubled to 12 per cent of GDP. And while foreign investment didn't exactly pour in, there were definite signs of interest.

The broad picture was that in spite of it all, there have been some signs of positive trends, said Wahidul Islam Mahmud, president of the Bangladesh Economic Association.

But the good times still passed tens of millions of people by. Purbu Hajipura is

a Dhaka slum whose misery is defined by the fact that its people do not even live on dry land, but in corrugated tin huts perched on stilts above a swamp. The people here lack the skills or education to profit from economic liberalisation, and they have been overlooked by social workers.

"We have never seen any development or any change in our lives," said Habibur Rahman, a vegetable vendor, who came to the city because he could not survive in his village. Here he shares a tin shack, an oven in the summer heat, with one other family.

A cycle rickshaw driver from the same district chimes in. "We are poor people, and we don't know what is in store for our children either," Mr Rahman sums it up. "To me, development means the price of rice. And no matter who the Rajah or Rani is, the price of rice goes up."

That has certainly been true in recent months as the political confrontation between the government of Begum Khaleda Zia and the opposition Awami League leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, escalated into protest strikes and random violence.

Economists believe the unrest of the last two years has scythed the country's growth rate back to 4 per cent. Foreign aid donors cut their contributions from 2 billion dollars to 1.6 billion dollars. Agricultural production dropped so steeply that Bangladesh had to start importing rice again. All that had been achieved in the earlier part of the 1990s was coming undone. "The Bangladesh economy is coming to a crisis," Professor Mahmud said.

**T**HERE are few signs that the government will head the elections. Although Mrs Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) romped home with 167 out of 168 seats declared by last night in Thursday's general election, it was not what could normally be considered a victory.

Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and the other main opposition parties boycotted the polls in a protest against Mrs Zia's failure to make way for a neutral, caretaker government that would oversee the elections.

Reports of systematic bal-

lot-stuffing at what was essentially a one-party poll on Thursday support their contention that Mrs Zia's government was incapable of conducting a fair vote.

Though it is difficult to be certain just how low the turnout was because of BNP fraud, the opposition is claiming 95 per cent of voters stayed away. Foreign monitors have put the figure at about 80 per cent. But Mrs Zia said: "If it is a democratic vote then a 10 per cent turnout has to be accepted."

Her determination to continue in office, tempered by an eye of poll offer to resume talks with a view to holding fresh elections, is matched by Sheikh Hasina, who is possessed by the idea of forcing her out. The consequences of their personal feud are ruinous.

One Western diplomat says the crisis "has weakened whatever competence there was in government to take on reforms."

More important are the questions it raises about whether Bangladesh can establish a stable democracy. Human rights activists fear the elections gave an opportu-

nity to the army, chastened after Gen Ershad's fall and confined to barracks, to play a larger role in public life. Lawyers say soldiers searching for illegal weapons in the village of Char Syedpur last month smashed up homes, and beat up 200 people. It is the first rights case to be filed against the armed forces since the restoration of civilian rule.

There are also fears that the rallies of Gen Ershad's supporters in the Jatiya Party, as well as the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, who also boycotted Thursday's vote, may ultimately gain from the crisis.

Sheikh Hasina is aware of all this, but it has not put a brake on her single-minded campaign to remove the prime minister. The enmity between the two women is itself dangerous, commentators fear.

"What this whole crisis has brought out is a kind of intolerance, hostility and terror that will be difficult to control," said Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, a columnist and English professor at Dhaka University. "People are losing faith in mainstream politics."



Guarded answer... Security forces protect the ballot boxes in Dhaka after Thursday's election

## A hard route out of servitude

**Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka**

**T**RADITION once said a village girl should marry early — sometimes even before puberty. But that was before the arrival of a thriving new industry which has given

its mainly female employees a rare measure of control over their lives.

A decade ago, Sufia Akter, aged 19, would already have been married off. But four years after she started work sewing shirts at a garment factory in Dhaka suburb, she says: "I

really don't have time to think about it." And then returns her attention to her sewing machine.

Sufia is one of 1.2 million people employed in Bangladesh's garment industry, 85 per cent of them women. The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies says

75 per cent of them are villagers and 60 per cent unmarried.

Many of them, like Sufia, are the family's main wage earners, enhancing their status in the family and reshaping this largely Muslim society. Marriage would put an end to that.

Demographers believe the availability of socially acceptable employment for unskilled women is leading to later marriages, which could help in population control.

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Cricket

England kept in the dark

David Hopps

ENGLAND'S uninspired performance and defeat in their opening World Cup match was followed yesterday by evidence of shoddy planning as they admitted that they knew next to nothing about tomorrow's opponents, the United Arab Emirates.

Vague plans to watch the UAE's opening match against South Africa on television on Thursday were dashed when it was washed out. When the match did take place in Rawalpindi yesterday, England had to grab what they could by way of information during a tortuous day's travel en route to Peshawar.

"Basically, all we know about them is what we've read in some pen-pictures," said the England captain Mike Atherton, settling down in front of a television on a stop-over in Peshawar.

All he was able to see was all too familiar: South African batsmen taking the bowling apart.

Hope is about the best that England can offer against a defeat against New Zealand, characterised by slovenly fielding, wayward bowling and hesitant batting.

The bookmakers, however, seem better informed, with England quoted at 40/1 on to win tomorrow, the heaviest favourites going into a World Cup match in the history of the tournament.

Theoretically the UAE should not present the remotest threat even to an England side trapped in the most world-wide, leader-footed, one-day form for years.

Gary Kirsten, South Africa's opening batsman, out-scored the Emirates on his own yesterday with his 188 in 150 minutes, the highest 150 for eight in reply. Even that modest response required a stubborn stand of 80 for the ninth wicket.

England's mood will not be enlivened by heavy security in Peshawar. The England team, billeted there late last year, were forced to do much



Over and out... the Emirates batsman Mazhar Hussain gets a taste of life in the fast lane as Donald strikes in Rawalpindi

of their fitness work in the hotel gymnasium. Graeme Hick, Dominic Cork and Robin Smith face fitness tests before tomorrow's game, with Hick and Cork the likeliest to get the nod. Hick is the only batsman in form, and his off-spin is also likely to play a valuable containing role throughout the tournament.

The spinner Neil Smith and seamer Phillip DeFreitas, both omitted from the New Zealand match, will hope to figure this time after the disappointing team performance in Ahmedabad.

Kapil Dev and Zaheer Abbas, former captains of India and Pakistan respectively,

have added their voices to the clamour for the ICC to be given wider powers to manage the international game. Kapil Dev, describing the ICC as "toothless", also called for Australia and West Indies to be banned for at least a year for refusing to play in Sri Lanka in the wake of the separatist bomb in Colombo. Zaheer, writing in the Asian Age newspaper, said: "For too long now one has been hearing about how the ICC cannot interfere in the affairs of its member nations. If this is so, it is time that some changes were made in its constitution and some more powers given to it to take strong decisions."

Zimbabwe swept aside by Ambrose and Lara

WEST INDIES displayed all their old professionalism yesterday with a crushing six-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in their opening Group A match in Hyderabad.

Inspired by the Man of the Match Curtly Ambrose, who took a wicket in each of his three spells, West Indies restricted the Zimbabweans to 151 for nine in their 50 overs.

Sherwin Campbell then played the anchor role with 47 as West Indies coasted to victory under the lights at Lal Bahadur Stadium.

With the result a foregone conclusion, the crowd began to chant for Brian Lara and he was greeted with a huge ovation when he came to the wicket with his team needing only 73 to win.

The Trinidad did not disappoint, bringing up West Indies' 100 with an effortless pull six into the stands. He ended the match after his side had batted only 29.3 overs with another huge six over long to finish unbeaten on 43 off 31 deliveries.

Paul Strang created a brief sensation when he dismissed Campbell, Richie Richardson (22), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (8) and Keith Arthurton (1) in an excellent spell of brisk leg-spin to finish with four for 40 from 7.3 overs. But it was too late for Zimbabwe, whose batsmen displayed only underpowered West Indies' supremacy.

Holland begin their campaign against New Zealand in today's only match in Baroda. Tomorrow India are guaranteed a raucous reception when they face Kenya in Cuttack.

Racing

Vicompt can make his stamina tell

Non Cox

FOLLOWING heavy rain, it was tough to go earlier this week about Newcastle's richest ever jumps card going ahead today, and the emphasis on stamina will be stronger than ever in the featured Tote Eider Chase over four miles and a furlong.

A good recent run should be worth its weight in gold, and one contender who has an edge in this department is Vicompt de Valmont, who was in action at Newbury only last Saturday.

Predictably, this out-and-out stayer found even three and a quarter miles an inadequate test, but he finished with a flourish to take third place behind Sunley Bay and Dendra Dove and that should have put him spot on.

Basically, no distance is far enough for Vicompt de Valmont, who is a bit of a character but has run really well on his last two starts without his customary blunders.

Beaten three lengths by Killashin over four and a quarter miles at Tamworth last month, the 11-year-old meets that rival 10th bet today and around a year ago he ran well in much better class when fourth behind Nuffield from well out of the handicap in the Greenalls Gold Cup at Haydock.

Paul Nicholls's veteran was half a length behind third-placed Superior Finish that day and re-opposes on 16th better terms now.

Under an inspired ride from Adrian Maguire, Super Finish finished like a train to collar Sifton Abbey at Sandown last time. His previous third in the Hennessy was a sound effort, but jockey Rodney Farrant will certainly earn his fee today.

It would be a tremendous training performance by Martin Pipe should Lord Ralic manage to overcome such a lengthy absence. At his best he is the class act.

A 7lb rise in the weights overnight has done Lord Ralic no favours, but that leaves Vicompt de Valmont (4.10) just 2lb off his proper mark.

He can prove a good chance to overcome such a lengthy absence. At his best he is the class act.

The Nicholls stable has also been on the mark at Chesham with Court Melody (3.40) in the Staffles Handicap Chase.

Unlike Vicompt de Valmont, Court Melody has shown improved form since fitted with blinkers and Tony McCoy's mount ran well at Sandown last time when trying to give away 18lb.

Several Chesham Festival prospects are on show in the Persian War Novice Hurdle and any one of them could win. The sudden return to form by Oliver Sherwood's string is a strong pointer to Zephyrus (1.00), who shaped as though this longer trip would suit when fourth behind Right Win at Sandown.

Swinburn on the mend

WALTER SWINBURN is continuing his recovery after the horrific fall he suffered at Sna Tyn last Sunday. The 34-year-old jockey has pleased doctors with his rapid progress and is now breathing without the aid of a ventilator, writes Ken Oliver.

He is also off morphine and his next hurdle is to clear his lungs of the congestion which has accrued since the accident.

Swinburn's brother, Michael, said yesterday: "The doctors are amazed at the only thing they are worried about is if he should catch pneumonia. But if he doesn't, he is home and dry."

"He even told dad to go off and play golf or something. It was just his way of saying, 'I'm all right' - you know, he has to keep hanging around the hospital."

Newcastle with form for the TV races

- 1.25 Mearns News
1.30 The Grey Mare
1.35 Curlew Lay
3.00 Strong Deal
3.25 Chalky Cracker
4.10 VICOMPT DE VALMONT (non)
4.40 Turpale

Stable Handicap, Best Chance, Good to soft, 9. Dromedary Hurdle, Best Chance, off 10.15. Newbury, 10.15. Dromedary Hurdle, Best Chance, off 10.15.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

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Chepstow card with form for the televised races

- 1.00 Dromedary
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1.30 Hops And Pops
3.00 Strong Deal
3.25 Chalky Cracker
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RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891 168 168

Grand time THE Grand National, March 30, brought forward 45 minutes to 3pm to enable it to be televised fully around the world.

Results SANDOWN 1.30th, 2.30th, 3.30th, 4.30th, 5.30th, 6.30th, 7.30th, 8.30th, 9.30th, 10.30th, 11.30th, 12.30th





Nigel Benn gets to work in the Tenerife gym

The WBC super middleweight champion lets off steam a year after the McClellan fight

Frank Keating in Tenerife

Benn is looking forward in anger

NIGEL BENN, one of the most enduring world champions in British boxing history, will retire before the end of the year. He defends his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title for the 10th time against the South African Thulane Malinga in Newcastle on March 2. After which, he says, he will have "at the most two more fights and then I'll walk away feeling content because all boxing and its shit will have been bashed out of me".

stood so four-square in the ring and shown such valourous stomach for a fight. The public's perception of Benn is of someone who, with a terrifying physical eloquence, defines both the legalised savagery that prize-fighting's detractors deplore and at the same time the heroic and ultimate chivalry which boxing's supporters espouse in its defence. Next weekend, February 25, is the doom-laden anniversary of Benn's fight with the American Gerald McClellan, and still a mute and paralysed invalid after being carried out on his shield in London. McClellan's tragedy came after, and was caused by, possibly the most breathtaking title-fight ever staged in Britain. It will never be re-shown on television for obvious reasons: "Benn could have been knocked out in the first, pulling himself up rope after rope being knocked out of the ring. He then ran across to shove his defiance back into an astonished McClellan's face... and so it went on. Now, as is his custom, Benn has left his 18-room, £1 million mansion in suburban Kent to train in the sunshine of Tenerife. After training,



Well in the running... Benn takes to the mountain trail to build up stamina for his next super-middleweight defence on March 2

watched by a packed gymnasium of British title-sharers, he is surprisingly talkative. As he is in the ring, out of it Benn betrays no hint of remorse, let alone compassion: "It is a dangerous, nasty but compelling game". But first things first, he wants to get the British tabloid press off his chest: "I read last week that I'm meant to pay McClellan for what happened. Why me? We were sportsmen, boxing. Gerald had got a multi-million-pound millionaire promoting and managing him, so what's Don King doing about it? Except joining the press to chastise me for not sending any money. Why can't King look after Gerald? I'll help Michael Watson, sure, he beat me once and I love him to death. "What happened at the end was tragic, of course. I'm the first to know that. But basically the British press hate a winner who's British. They don't like any British man to have balls as big as a cow's, like I have. They don't want winners. Well, I don't want any more shit from them. I'm getting out very soon and that will be the end of it. "I also read when the papers come out here that Collins needs to stay in Dub-

lin to fight for some contract reason - so he's mauling me off saying I'm scared to go and fight him there. Come on, Steve, get real - look whose broken I've been in and still broken them up - Barclay, De Witt, that Italian guy, the lot. I've been into their place and done them over. It's a total joke to say I'm scared of this 'Celtic Warrior'. That's a joke as well, more like a chocolate warrior who melts fast. But if a fight was made army boxing title from welterweight to heavyweight. But while, say, Linford Christie's tedious bellyache about "no respect" has racial undertones, Benn's xenophobia, while wearing, displays no jot of racism, though heaven knows he says he has suffered it in the British army, especially from Ulster's bigots. He is reckoned to be a millionaire a few times over. "I have always known when I would walk away. I will go this year, that's for certain. After Christmas I will be a businessman, dealing with my brother in property, as well as earning a living as a disc jockey. Someone like Chris Eubank goes out and buys a jacket for £2,000; I'm not like that. I just go up to my room in tatty old jeans and cut and edit my music tapes. "Okay, I've got my mansion, my cars, and no taxman is on my back, so my family won't want for anything. I'm relieved to be going immunitely, getting out of that ring. I feel heading here almost being bashed out of me and that's how I want it, to go and never return. "You see that Eubank will have to come back as soon as I've gone, his taxman has to

be satisfied, doesn't he?" One has a fancy, a hint in the dark, that he might just want for pride's sake, a last equalising fling against the preposterous but talented Eubank. You must be ruddy joking. "I've gone everywhere for my titles, I've nothing to prove against him. He's never had the balls to go anywhere outside England to get anything for himself. Me against Eubank? No way. If he came in here now I'd just throw all my title belts high in the air behind my back and say to him and all the others, "There you are, you lot go and scrap like dogs for them." At training Benn has always been his own man. In his early years he turned down selection for the Commonwealth Games team because he was told he had to attend training camp for sparring. He just did not turn up. He does not spar. "Before the McClellan fight I did spar six or seven rounds. But I don't need that. All I need is for my hands to get the distance, the measurement. I believe in super fitness but not in leaving all your boxing behind in the gym, like so many sportsmen seem to. "I've trained hard for Malinga, not because he gave me

a close, good fight last time but mainly because I've had a funny feeling inside me about Malinga's blond South African trainer Nick Durante, who was totally out of order, dishing me rotten at the press conference, and his attitude really made me sick in the stomach. So I'll imagine he's coming out of the corner to fight instead of Malinga. That's been the same all my career - the managers and trainers do all the vile mouthing off, not us boxers." He admits that his relief at retirement is not as strong as those close to him. "If I don't pack in, my girlfriend Caroline will jack me in. After the McClellan thing she nearly did, she just sat crying her eyes out for days asking me to pack it in." He adds that they had to sit their 10-year-old son Dominic down to tell him real boxing was more serious than Sky TV's WWF wrestling, in which nobody gets hurt - and now he too does not want daddy to fight any more. "Funny, he did once watch a Eubank fight on TV and he seemed to enjoy that but, with Eubank, it was all pretty harmless. And, no, I didn't tell him, 'Hey, that's the man who once beat up your dad.'"

Widnes, who surprisingly beat Workington Town away from home, have agreed an unusual pay structure with their players to cover both ties. The coach Doug Laughton explained: "If we had lost at Workington the players would have received nothing and defeat at Dewsbury could see them pick up just £50 for all their work. If we win, however, the players stand to pick up a four-figure fee." Sheffield Eagles will try to reach the last eight for the first time. They go to Halifax with both their scrum-half Mark Aston and forward Anthony Farrell back in the team after almost two months out with injury. The back-row forward Paul Dixon will undergo a late fitness test on his hip injury. Halifax's coach Steve Simons is still without Paul Moriarty, Wayne Harrison and Craig Dean with injury; but his team are still certain to start as favourites.

Rugby League

Crisis club purge

Speculation over the short-term survival of Dewsbury has overshadowed the First Division club's attempt to reach the quarter-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup by beating Widnes tomorrow. It was disclosed yesterday that the Rugby Football League's chief executive Maurice Lindsay had ordered the mass resignation of the club's management because of £200,000 debts and continuing losses of £1,000 a day. A West Yorkshire newspaper reported that Lindsay had told club officials that Dewsbury were "the worst-managed club I have ever known". Now a two-man financial-management team has been put in control at New Crown Flats and they are expected to meet the club's creditors next week in an attempt to negotiate a survival scheme. Dewsbury's chief executive and chairman Ken Davies said he was "treated like a naughty schoolboy" and that he felt Dewsbury had been badly treated for being a members' club. Dewsbury, who beat the Premier League's London Broncos in the previous round, are expected to be unchanged against Widnes with the exception of their full-back Pierre van Wyk, who is returning to South Africa. Widnes, who surprisingly beat Workington Town away from home, have agreed an unusual pay structure with their players to cover both ties. The coach Doug Laughton explained: "If we had lost at Workington the players would have received nothing and defeat at Dewsbury could see them pick up just £50 for all their work. If we win, however, the players stand to pick up a four-figure fee." Sheffield Eagles will try to reach the last eight for the first time. They go to Halifax with both their scrum-half Mark Aston and forward Anthony Farrell back in the team after almost two months out with injury. The back-row forward Paul Dixon will undergo a late fitness test on his hip injury. Halifax's coach Steve Simons is still without Paul Moriarty, Wayne Harrison and Craig Dean with injury; but his team are still certain to start as favourites.

Warwick runners and riders

Table of Warwick runners and riders including names like 1.40 Tejano Gold, 1.10 3/4 Jocko Tenner, 1.10 3/4 Jocko Tenner, 1.10 3/4 Jocko Tenner, 1.10 3/4 Jocko Tenner.

Windsor programme

Table of Windsor programme including names like 1.50 Keep It Zipped, 1.50 Keep It Zipped, 1.50 Keep It Zipped, 1.50 Keep It Zipped.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card

Table of Lingfield all-weather Flat card including names like 2.30 Dancin' Blues, 2.30 Dancin' Blues, 2.30 Dancin' Blues, 2.30 Dancin' Blues.

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Former glories

FA CUP SOCCER

Happy Horton heading up again after Maine Road turmoil

Cynthia Bateman on the manager who is thriving away from Manchester

FOR those who shared the desperate post-match press conferences at Maine Road as a valiant Brian Horton last season struggled for a foothold in the political quicksands of Manchester City, it is a rare treat now to talk to him as manager of Huddersfield Town.



Upward curve... for a revitalised Brian Horton and Huddersfield, whose elegant McAlpine Stadium could house Premiership football next season

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL STEELE

Celtic must conquer their memories

Celtic face their first serious test as Tennessean Scottish Cup holders this afternoon when Raith Rovers visit Parkhead for a fourth-round fixture.

Very nice things, and I enjoyed the football side of things there. Horton prefers to let that experience lie. "I never look back," he said. "It's what Huddersfield Town do now that matters. And if I don't enjoy the job now, I never will."

Games. My players are supposedly doing so-called better players, but I've told them the basics of "if it's not broken, don't fix it", he has made few alterations to the side.

Three new players for a total £200,000 - the left-winger Dalton from Plymouth, the playmaker Makiel from Newcastle, and Wales's full-back Jenkins from Swansea.

Six on Everton hit-list

Everton's former manager Mike Walker could return to the game by taking charge at Burnley.

Walker yesterday joined a growing queue of potential successors to Jimmy Mullen, who resigned earlier this month.

Swansea's chairman Doug Sharpe, back in charge after Michael Thompson's takeover fell through, says he will "fight all the way" any attempt by Kevin Collis to sue the club.

Results

- Soccer: FOUR-NATION TOURNAMENT (2) Denmark 1 (Gibson), Third-place play-off: Denmark 2, Finland 2. RUGBY UNION: 15-18 INTERNATIONAL: Wales 25, Scotland 21. RUGBY LEAGUE: ALLIANCE: Chester 38, Keighley 6; Leeds 32, Blackpool 4. GOLF: AUSTRALIAN MASTERS (McIntosh): 187. WOODBINE: 187. WOODBINE: 187. WOODBINE: 187.

Weekend fixtures

- FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea v West Ham; Middlesbrough v Bolton. RUGBY UNION: FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: France v Ireland (2); Paris St Germain v Ulster (1); Cardiff v Wales (1); Scotland v Ireland (1); Wales v Scotland (1). HOCKEY: BRITISH LEAGUE: Division One: Tottenham v Doncaster; Division Two: Doncaster v Tottenham.

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ENGLISH LEAGUE

- First Division: Charlton v Sheffield Utd; Sheffield v Milton Keynes (7.30); Grimsby v Reading; Leicester v Port Vale. Second Division: Southend v Plymouth; Norwich v Wolverhampton; Portsmouth v Sunderland; Southampton v Derby; Stoke v Birmingham; West Brom v Tranmere. Third Division: Barnet v Wigan; Luton v Luton; Chester v Southport; Exeter v Mansfield; Doncaster v Plymouth; Exeter v Cambridge Utd; Grilling v Hereford; Oxford v Northampton; Rochdale v Fulham; Scarborough v Cardiff; Torquay v Hartlepool.

TENNIS SCOTTISH CUP

- Fourth round: Airdrie v Forth; Dundee v Perth; Celtic v Raith; Kilmarnock v Hearts; Dundee United v Dundee; St Johnstone v Cowden; Stenhousemuir v Colinton; Stirling v Aberdeen. SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First Division: Clydebank v Dumbarton; Second Division: Dundee v South v Stranraer; Third Division: Clyde v Berwick; Albion v Ross County; Brechin v Ross County; East Stirling v Livingston. RUGBY LEAGUE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Newcastle v Newcastle; Newcastle v Newcastle; Newcastle v Newcastle.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

- Bromsgrove v Macclesfield; Dag & Red v Stalybridge; Hednesford v Kidderminster; Morecambe v Altrincham; Northwich v Halifax; Macclesfield v Kidderminster; Slough v Kettering; Southport v Woking; Stevenage v Gateshead; Telford v Dover; Welling v Kidderminster. UNBORN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Accrington Stanley v Gainsborough; Bishop Auckland v Barns; Chorley v Burton; Accrington v Boston Utd; Drogheda v Spennymoor; Emley v Winsford Utd; Guiseley v Knowsley; Hyde Utd v Frickley; Leek Tn v Blyth Spartans. Second Division: Macclesfield v Kidderminster; Worcester v Chelmsford.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

- Premier Division: Crawley Tn v Baldock Tn; Gosport & N v Alton; Grays Rvrs v Dorchester; Hastings v Halesowen; Newport AFC v Sudbury Tn; Rushden & Diamonds v Cheltenham; Salisbury v Burton; Walsley v Stafford; Worcester v Chelmsford. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Havant v Truro; Havant v Truro; Havant v Truro.

Laws cries fowl

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

THE question has to be asked: is a chicken leg an offensive weapon? Much has been written about the dressing-room row between Grimsby's manager Brian Laws and Ivano Bonetti, but what really happened? Here, for the first time, is a breakdown of the break-up. After losing to Luton having led 2-1, Laws entered the dressing room to find Bonetti tucking into a plateful of food. Laws did not think this was the right response to defeat and told the Italian to put the food down.

ARMED and extremely dangerous

Armed and extremely dangerous. Dave Mayrington before Southampton's midweek cup tie against Grimsby: "We are going there with all guns firing."

SO BORED were Villa

fans during last Saturday's one-sided defeat at Bolton at Burnden Park that they shaved the coach and instead decided to check out the supermarket which protrudes into the ground. Cue a chant of "Three wheels on my trolley", followed by "You only sing when you're shopping" (heard by Mick Morris of Pevsey).

YOU may have seen a

Newcastle United's Keith Gillespie in a heavy gambler. Apparently he only began to realise it was a waste of money when Alex Ferguson signed Andy Cole (writes Mick Keeton of Manchester, very catty given tomorrow's game).

NOW if Wimbledon and

Huddersfield were to draw their fifth-round FA Cup tie today and Shrewsbury and Liverpool did the same in tomorrow's fourth-round game, the sixth-round draw made later tomorrow could, theoretically, produce the following tie: Wimbledon or Huddersfield v Shrewsbury or Liverpool or Charlton or Grimsby or Chelsea. Or not, as the case may be.

PERHAPS it was an attempt

to save money: Macclesfield Town's substitution of Peter O'Leary for Coates on (spotted by Sarah Miles of Macclesfield).

SUNDAY morning footballers

will be familiar with the following excuses for players turning up late for the game: "The clocks went forward? I thought they went back." "I knew I should have filled up the car last night." "I had us down as the AC Milan."

But here is the AC Milan

of the game: Colin Jenkins dreamt the game had been called off.

Eventually he turned up

at half-time of the Watford Sunday League against White Horse offering the following excuse: "I'd had a few too many the night before and when I woke up I was certain my mum had said Walsley the manager had rung and said the game was off."

So I just got up and

made myself a cup of tea. It was only when my mum asked why I hadn't gone to the game that I realised I must have dreamt it."

Said the manager, Martin

Walsley: "I've thought for some time my players have been half asleep. Now I'm certain."

Benn a year after McClellan, page 9

David Lacey on Manchester's derby, page 10

The man who lost the Maine chance, page 11

# SportsGuardian

## SOUTH AFRICA SHOW ENGLAND THE WAY FORWARD

### Kirsten strikes Cup record

**S**OUTH Africa's Gary Kirsten provided England with a few pointers on how to deal with the United Arab Emirates when he struck them for a World Cup record 188 not out yesterday.

Kirsten's innings in Rawalpindi beat Viv Richards's 1988 mark by seven runs but was one short of the West Indian's world record for a one-day international, set 13 years ago against England at Old Trafford.

Kirsten was named Man of the Match for his prominent role in South Africa's 321 for two off 50 overs — their highest score in a limited-overs international. The UAE reached 152 for eight, leaving South Africa victors by 169 runs.

Kirsten said he was unaware of the record until he neared the target. "I wasn't sure at all until I was on 175 when Daryll [Cullinan] spoke to the umpire, who told him the World Cup record was 181," Kirsten said. "It's a great feeling. Hopefully I can keep it up for the rest of the series."

England face the UAE in Feshwar tomorrow.

More cricket, page 8



Up and under... the UAE's keeper Imtiaz Khan Abbasi can only look on as Gary Kirsten strikes another six yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM CHADWICK

### When hate comes to billiard balls



David Lacey

**A**T THE start of the season a new manager met the board and set out his plans. The board nodded and wished him well. The manager then suggested that they should all join him in prayer.

As he is still in his job it would seem faith can move football directors as well as mountains. In fact, given the recent experiences of a number of his contemporaries, a regular plea for deliverance from evil would not go amiss at the start of every manager's working day.

Consider the case of Jimmy Muller, who had been four years and four months in charge at Burnley but left Turf Moor this week after supporters accused him at a local take-away and were so violently abusive it was alleged that one fan tried to set light to Mrs Muller's dress.

Or Ian Branfoot, the long-suffering manager of longer-suffering Fulham, re-living the painful experience to which he was subjected at Southampton, with leaflets containing death threats circulated at Craven Cottage. Chanting "Branfoot Out" or "Sack Muller" is one thing, but these incidents are part of the mounting hysteria taking hold of football and posing a more sinister threat than even the worst days of hooliganism in the Seventies and Eighties.

Managers are not angels, although neither of the aforementioned belongs to the plate-throwing tendency. On occasions their inability to turn around the fortunes of losing teams demands a change. But the sort of personal vilification to which a growing number are being subjected is worrying.

When Jack Mansell managed Reading in the early Seventies the team slipped into a losing run and supporters registered tied rude messages to his son's bicycle. At the time this appeared to be

taking things too far; now a manager would be grateful if fans merely left their feelings on the handlebars.

As manager of Leeds United Howard Wilkinson sat on the bench at St Andrew's last Sunday and saw several of his players threatened, verbally and physically, by Birmingham supporters who had dashed down gangways to the touchline. As chairman of the League Managers' Association Wilkinson believes the present levels of abuse suffered by players and managers are part of a worrying pattern.

"At the moment there is an atmosphere of hysteria surrounding the game which is fanned by some newspapers, radio stations and television channels," he said. "The premise is that everybody has to win. Losing is a disgrace to one's manhood."

"Our sport is being prostituted and we're losing control. On the one side the motive seems to be one of profit. On the other there seems to be a need for violence. And football managers are soft targets."

They are soft targets for both supporters and directors. In fact, for when the fans begin to shout, seeking the manager becomes the boardroom's easy option. Memories must be short at Tranmere if the local anglers are calling for the dismissal of John King.

**T**HESSE days the players are usually the calmest folk around. On Sunday Wilkinson's team, and in particular Gary McAllister and Gary Kelly, suffered more prolonged and, considering what was being thrown at them, potentially harmful abuse than that which led to Eric Cantona attacking a Crystal Palace supporter. Yet they managed to shrug it aside.

In the long term all this hate can only sour the game. "Players are developing an extremely cynical attitude to it all," said Wilkinson, "and eventually player-manager relationships will suffer."

It is to be hoped that like the worst excesses of the terrace hooligan this is just another passing unpleasantness.

After Preston had won 3-1 at Aston Villa in 1985 the winning team were attacked by the home fans. "Thicker and faster came the stones," said one eye-witness, "showers of spittle covered us."

No smooker balls, though.

## Racing hit by sponsor body blow

### Grunwick veteran takes on the establishment by moving his money into soccer

**H**ORSE racing, already reeling from high costs, low prize-money and the effects of the lottery, suffered another huge blow yesterday when the sport's biggest sponsor said he was switching his money to football.

George Ward, who personally puts £800,000 a year into racing and is president of the Horseracing Spenders' Association, is threatening to pull out of jumping's second most important event, the

King George VI Chase, which is held every Boxing Day at Kempton. Winners have included Arkle and Desert Orchid (four times).

Ward is not frightened of a battle. Eighteen years ago he routed the picket lines at his Grunwick photographic reproduction company and yesterday he confirmed that he will withdraw his companies' support from racing unless the sport's authority gives sponsors a better deal.

Last month he cancelled support for a race at Redcar and for a series of races for inexperienced jump horses.

Yesterday he added two more jumps to the list, both Classics at the Kempton Easter meeting, and others are likely to follow.

He has used the money saved to buy advertising boards in prime positions at Premier League football grounds. "My companies are not reducing their sponsorship," Ward said, "but they are redirecting it. The support we are now giving to football will put our companies' names in front of 60 million viewers over 13 weeks."

Exclusivity is at the core of the dispute. Ward's companies, Bonusprint and Tripleprint, contributed prize-money to dozens of races last year.

Since March 1983 racehorse owners have been granted exemption from VAT if they were able to show that their horseracing interests were being pursued as a business. Selling space on jockeys' silks is accepted as proof of this by Customs and Excise, which is why the British Horseracing Board set up such a scheme in June 1984. However, the selective eye of the television camera often gives logos on jockeys more prominence than sponsors' advertising, which

is why Ward asked for the scheme to be reviewed.

Ward suggested an alternative by which a sponsor giving £10,000 or more to a race would enjoy exclusivity. In exchange he would agree to distribute among owners of runners in the race £1,000 or five per cent of the prize-money, whichever was the greater. "It would give owners another £500,000 a year, spread the money more evenly and between a far greater number of owners," said Ward, who has nine horses in training.

"This contentious aspect of the Sponsorship For Racing Owners policy makes our position as race sponsors not

only untenable but also commercially unsound."

Friction between the two camps reached smoking point at a public forum at Newbury last Friday when Ward and the board's marketing director Lee Richardson were involved in a shouting match.

"They want our money, yet they treat us autocritically," said Ward yesterday. "The racing industry is worth billions of pounds, but it is not run professionally. Take it or leave it is their attitude."

Paul Greaves of the BHB said that Ward's decision was regrettable. "We hope, even at this late stage, that George Ward will think again."

### Lydon to coach union's North

**T**HE legendary Joe Lydon will make rugby union history by turning out at Sale on Monday evening to coach the North Division squad.

Lydon, the former Wigan and Great Britain full-back who is now a professional rugby league coach with the champions, has accepted an invitation from the North manager Fran Cotton to take charge of a specialist training session. Lydon will be accompanied by Ray Unsworth, the Wigan Academy coach.

Cotton, a member of England's 1980 Grand Slam side, wants the North players technical advice rather than just put them through training drills.

Paul Sampson, the 18-year-old Bradford schoolboy called up for the England squad recently, will be among the players to benefit from Lydon's coaching.

Cotton, one of union's more advanced thinkers, has also recruited Andy Clark, an expert in power training and fitness, who has worked with players from Wigan, Liverpool FC and Manchester United.

### FA to double drug tests of players

**T**HE Football Association is to double the number of drug tests it carries out next season in an attempt to clamp down further on abuse in the game, writes Martin Thorpe.

Last season there were 272 tests, four times the previous season. This season there will be 280 and next season 500.

The recent cases of Roger Stanislaus and Craig Whittington have highlighted the continuing problem but there is a more general concern about the growing use of drugs in society spreading to football.

The FA, PFA and Sports Council provisionally agreed the increase yesterday, pending final approval from the council, who will carry out the tests.

The majority of these will be done in training, others after games. Each of the 92 clubs will get at least one visit, others three or more.

"We recognise there is a drugs problem in society," said the FA's chief executive Graham Kelly, "and we are determined to stop it spreading into the game."

There will also be a survey of young players' attitudes to drugs and the prevalence of drugs in football.

**Founders.**  
Worth going the extra mile for.

**USHERS FOUNDERS ALE**

**Don't imagine for a second that it won't happen here. A press conference will be hastily called. A tearful high-profile British hero, head bowed, voice sombre, will read a short statement. He will tell 30 or 40 journalists and a bank of cameras and microphones that he is HIV positive.**

John Duncan

**Outlook page 15**

**Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,578**

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,578, Reference Marketing, Harper Collins Publishing, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JF, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday February 26.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Set by Araucaria**

**Across**

8 Sweeper holds everything for 22 across (8)  
9,28 Summit approaching the infinite, on English soil? (5,5)  
10,24 Entertaining person takes wrong view in currency (4,4)  
11 26-12 25, 2 15, 9 10: British fish in cabbage (6,4)  
12 See 28  
14 Objective, to be removed to a solitary house? (6)  
15 14 feet from a left turn, possibly? (7)  
17 Wax it enthusiastically? (7)

**Down**

1 Turner skilled with crystal ball? (5,3)  
2 Depressed? Spend! (4)  
3 Doctors are intimidating to capital? (6)  
4 I get election winner, with deposit, to yield to outside pressure? (7)

20 Item of gold for a conscientious person? (8)  
22 End car pollution — moving subject (6)  
23,24 Choose characters for rail crew: I need 11 (10,4)  
25 See 9  
26,12 Chartrouses endanger work cry with pain? (5,3,6)

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**Collins English Dictionary**

Revised by Plutarch, losing companion all of a sudden (8)  
Amalgam: one part tin, one part nitrogen, three parts carbon monoxide (10)  
Old-fashioned gesture revealing the anxious (2,4)  
Eccentric character prefacing a communication or two (6-4)  
An old note by a small boy with absolute power (8)  
Bombast from Welsh or Scottish mouth is uncharacteristic (8)  
"Silver in Respite", work of Van Meegeren or Keating (7)  
Speculation about everything for 22 across (6)  
Left first of chairs in two-piece sweat (8)  
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SCOTT: THE AFTER  
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# The Guardian Outlook

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**SCOTT: THE AFTERMATH**  
The ministers involved may have escaped censure but Sir Richard's report, says HUGO YOUNG, lays bare their world without shame

## Heavily armed against the truth

**T**HE emblematic character in the saga of the Scott inquiry is not William Waldegrave but Geoffrey Howe. Sir Richard Scott had hardly begun his work before Lord Howe took it on himself to be the scourge and defender of his work: prosecutor, judge and jury in the attack on what he was about to publish — a traducer of his very existence. Howe's contention was partly that Scott's procedure was unfair, and his inquiry "not a tribunal upon whose judgment the reputation of anyone should be allowed to depend". This perilous exegesis did not deter the former foreign secretary yesterday from declaring that the report had vindicated ministers and government in all particulars. But it wasn't, in any case, the essence of his outrage. This was, rather, the "gap of non-comprehension" existing between Scott's world and "the real world", which rendered the judge incapable of engaging with what ministers had to do. Howe offered this scathing opinion as an elder statesman, as if he were now above the battle which Scott so woefully failed to understand. But he was nothing of the sort. Reading the report, one is reminded not only that he, as Waldegrave's superior, presided with meticulous enthusiasm over every subterfuge by which Middle East arms sales were kept from public view, but that he exalts everything Scott, in his plump and half-mystified way, criticises about Whitehall: its secrecy, its duplicities, its morass of unaccountable networks, its swift capacity to rationalise the misleading of Parliament as *raison d'état*. The ministers involved in arms sales to Iraq have escaped any censure they're

prepared to regard as such. They're satisfied that the sincerity of their errors protects them from any blame. In fact, they think they're heroes. Howe told Scott that the guidelines restraining arms sales to Iraq and Iran amounted, in contrast with the policies of other countries, to "a huge national sacrifice". Along with trying to put Robin Cook in the dock, this was also the distraction Ian Lang piously deployed on Thursday. For in the world of Geoffrey Howe, not only do the ministers in this saga have nothing to be ashamed of, there isn't even a marginal case to answer. The national interest demands the sale of arms, lethal or non-lethal according to time and place. The rules are debated between honourable men, with conclusions, however, that must inevitably be kept quiet and, if exposed, must be justified by the kind of casuistry which, in Howe's world, is second nature, but which, if admitted to Scott's world, requires to be taken apart. It is, above all, the act of taking apart that Howe resents as a grotesque intrusion on the public interest. Reading the Scott Report, one can see why. It takes apart his world as never before. Consider the single question of the guidelines. The question was: did Waldegrave knowingly deceive Parliament? Answer: No. He was not, says Scott, "duplicitous". Therefore he claims innocence. He says he sincerely didn't believe the guidelines had been changed. Yet behind this simple verdict lies a vast accumulation of evidence that they had changed, that officials and ministers thought they had changed, that ministers were aware how intensely embarrassing this might be, that "the convenience of secrecy" — a phrase Scott preferred to Sir Robin Butler, the

essence of which the Cabinet Secretary did not reject — prevailed whenever necessary. The original guidelines, first of all, were not published. Howe, who framed them in 1984, thought they "should be allowed to filter out". It was 10 months before they became fully known. During the Iran-Iraq war, the restraints they were supposed to impose on lethal weaponry were even-handed but liberally interpreted — with full awareness, however, of how scandal might beckon. Of Matrix-Churchill machine tools, for example, one of Howe's officials wrote in January 1988: "If it becomes public knowledge that the tools are to be used to make munitions, deliveries would have to stop at once." That the position altered when the war ended is attested to, Scott reports, in numerous ways. Alan Clark, Chan-son's junior, ecstatically noted the "brilliant" drafting that had exchanged a tight policy for a looser one — "so obviously drafted with the object of flexibility in either direction". But we don't need to rely only on fringe players. Waldegrave and Howe both made

things very clear. In September 1984, Howe remarked that "it could look very cynical" if, shortly after he had condemned Iraq for using chemical warfare against Kurds, "we adopt a more flexible approach to arms sales". He wanted to encourage these. His officials should "get moving down that path". Asked by Scott to examine more closely why secrecy about the new policy must obtain, Howe alluded with a palpable shudder to "the emotional way in which such debates are conducted in public". This was not a foreign secretary talking about a policy that did not change. Nor, obviously, was Waldegrave when his office wrote in February 1989 that he was "content for us to implement a more liberal policy on defence sales without any public announcement". The civil servants who also knew this, acted on it and conspired to keep it quiet. Litter the pages of Scott. Like the ministers, they became masters, at least in retrospect, of the linguistic trickery necessary to escape confessing that the policy had changed. Instead, the guidelines had been "re-formulated" (Gore-Booth of the FO), "amended" (Goulden of the FO), were "a form of interpre-

tation" (Barrett of the MoD), subject to "flexibility" (ministers and officials possess). Asked why this flexibility itself could not have been admitted in simple terms, rather than concealed behind a succession of studiously misleading parliamentary answers, Waldegrave and Howe each supplied explanations that conceded with utter starkness the priorities which they, in their heroic conduct of the public business, invite us to excuse. "Because it was judged that there were overriding reasons

other minister who sees through one lens his own innocence, and through the other the naivety of Lord Justice Scott. It is not exactly an amoral world. It merely gives dissembling a higher priority than other worlds. But it countsenance apologies which, I submit, would be intolerable in any other field of human conduct, culminating with the decisive *aperçu*, hitherto undiscovered even by Sir Humphrey, that whatever new guidelines were manifestly being followed, policy hadn't changed because ministers said they hadn't changed it. In the world of Sir Richard Scott, even after three years' exposure, it proved impossible to accommodate such linguistic relativism. In giving his account, Scott is not his own best ally. The report is absurdly long. Gigantism takes over his lordship, as he journeys down every meandering and sometimes futile side-path of the arms export world, the licensing and concealment thereof, the 1989 statute that still governs it etc etc. The limitless verbosity of the High Court bench, so ready to reach for double negatives where none would do much better, is rotundly on display. But in most ways, the judge lives up to Howe's worst ex-

pectations. More than anyone could see in the first few hours before yesterday's papers went to bed, he exposes and denounces the world Howe speaks for. It is true, for example, that he acquits Waldegrave of knowingly misleading the Commons. The minister had no "duplicitous intention". On the other hand, his conduct and that of Howe and every other minister had duplicity about it. What remained "duplicitous", he writes, was the "nature of the flexibility" claimed for the guidelines. In any other context than one in which ministers were expecting to be hung, drawn and quartered, such a verdict would have been worth a resignation. "The paucity of linguistic game-playing, moreover, may satisfy the world of Howe. The armies of Whitehall have rewritten the grammar of honest accountability. But the judge is not impressed. The contention that the guidelines were not changed, he said in a paragraph that somehow escaped Lang's attention, "is so plainly inapposite as to be incapable of being sustained by serious argument". He saw what was up. The change was kept secret for a very old-fashioned reason, which he understands. "It might legitimately have been feared that public knowledge of an intended relaxation of restrictions on the supply of defence equipment to Iraq



Illustration by  
ANDRZEJ KRAUZE

would provoke such indignation in the media and among vociferous sections of the British public as to be politically damaging. What Scott won't accept is that commercial interests should override all other considerations. He calls public disclosure a "constitutional" question, which should have been weighted better in the balance against political advantage and the intricacies of Middle East trade politics, real or imagined. His verdict on the world Howe defends is extraordinarily harsh. For six years, he finds, the Government consistently undervalued the public interest in Parliament being kept informed. "Time and time again", ministers came down against full disclosure for no better reason than that this would be politically inconvenient. Will the Scott Report redefine Howe's "real world"? In one sense, the real world seems to be winning. Nobody is planning to resign. The linguistic conjurers think they've taken the big tricks. Besides, the judge did a lot to help them. His procedures, far from being unfair, went overboard to help the men in the dock. No fraudster is given the opportunity ministers have had to scrutinise the judgment and propose amendments to the counts against them. Scott surrendered another point. On the last page of the report, he is meditating on questions of responsibility as against accountability. Should ministers be required to accept personal criticism for what goes wrong in their department? In the arms-to-Iraq affair, actually, ministers did a lot of the dirty work themselves. So the question is a trifle academic. The Scott doctrine, gratuitously follows that of the high priest of the real world, Sir Robin Butler. He said government was now so complex that ministers shouldn't be obliged to take the blame, and the judge produces an acquiescent double negative: "For my part, I find it difficult to disagree." The systemic indictment, however, stands. Ministers, clearly, intend to pay little attention. Having got the exoneration they wanted, they've made a few patronising references to Sir Richard's recommendations on export licensing. For the rest, they have no shame. Their world is Howe's world, and the only reason this opportunity arose to expose it was a mishap. The prosecution of Matrix-Churchill executives that went wrong. So the question is: would anyone else be different? The Labour Party has been in opposition so long it has forgotten what power is like. Its indignation at the dishonesty and parliamentary deception has the innocence of politicians who have seldom had to make hard decisions. It is committed to a Freedom of Information Act, but that hardly touches the point of commercial secrecy or the temptation to keep Parliament half-informed. Although led by Tony Blair, this was the party of Jim Callaghan and Harold Wilson when it last mattered. The only weapon against such expectations is that the world of Richard Scott should capture the public mind as being infeasibly superior to that of Geoffrey Howe. The ministers survive, to continue their heroic obfuscations. The judge, in his innocence, argues for something better. So should all who believe that these ministers, when put to the test, were serial defaulters against the truth.

It is not exactly an amoral world. It merely gives dissembling a higher priority than other worlds

**TIM WINTON** Shortlisted for the 1995 Booker Prize  
**The Riders**  
Now in paperback  
A tremendous read  
Let Winton sweep you off your feet  
Let him  
Specialist  
HACADOR

Three men in the same boat

TWO men were in the dock yesterday when there should have been three. Twenty-four hours on from Scott Day One it was inevitable that the highly selective quotes, which ministers had mined from Sir Richard's damning report to protect their most vulnerable members, would begin to look threadbare.

ter to redraft statements or press releases which contained inaccuracies or exaggerated claims. Now it seems even the cabinet secretary is powerless to intervene when desperate ministers produce — and release under departmental imprimatur — totally distorted summaries of a crucial official inquiry.

whistle on ministerial misconduct. But the most immediate issue raised yesterday is the political future of Waldegrave and Lyell. Should they resign? Both men, pleading guilty to the incompetence exposed by Scott, claim not to intend to resign. The other he did not intend to send three men to prison without due process.

A miasmatic revelation

FROM Shakespeare to the anonymous author of "Primary Colors" may seem a bathetic descent. But computers are dumb instruments which merely do what they are asked to do.

prate response would be to proclaim that "I am Spartacus". Fans of the superb Howard Fast novel (or else the less superb but still watchable film based upon it) will recall that the defeated slaves protected their leader by each and every one claiming the identity of Spartacus.

The peace process has stumbled and the IRA has returned to violence: something in the peace negotiations has failed. We must learn not to treat such talks as a continuation of war, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT

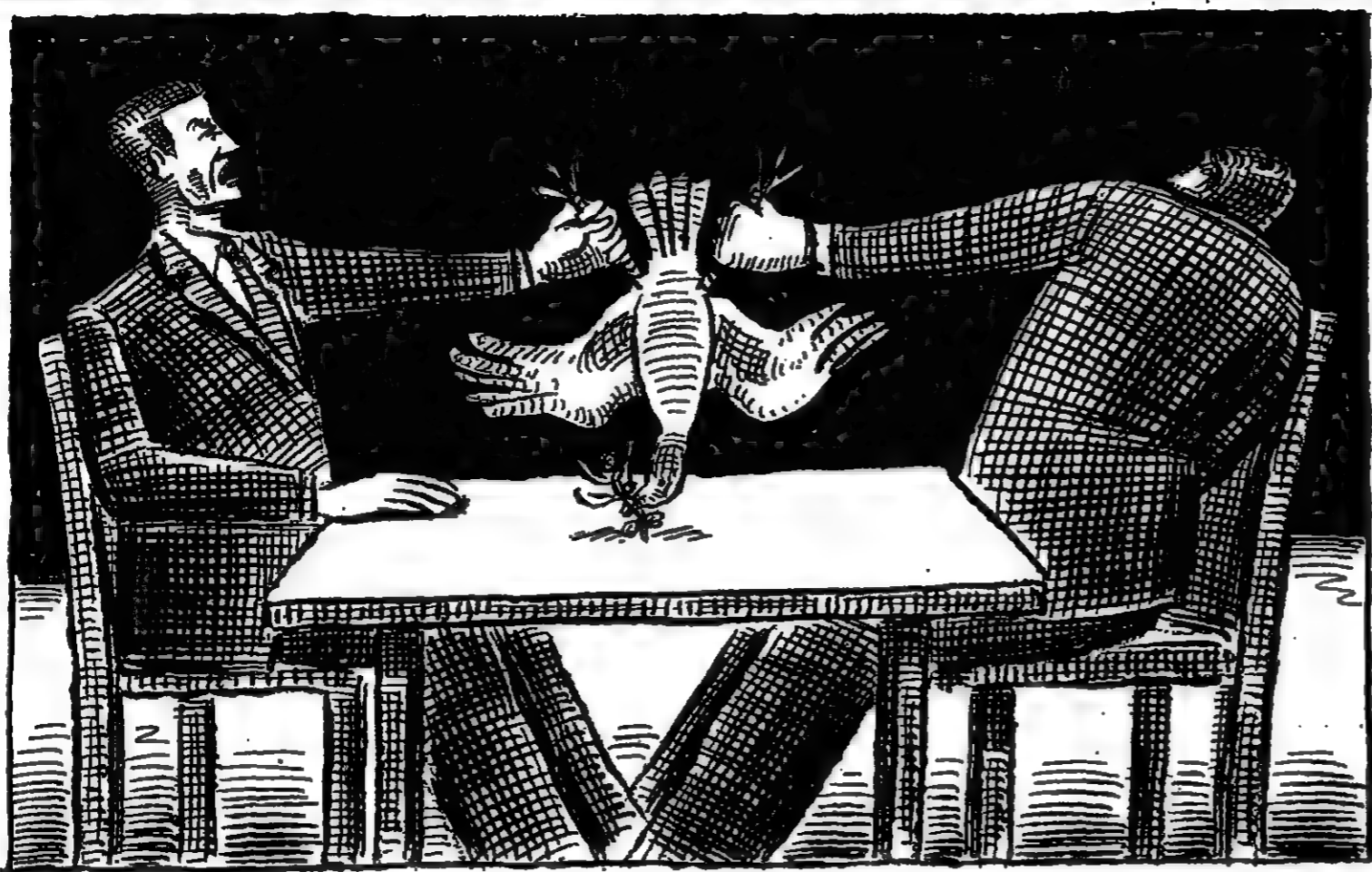


Illustration: PETER TILL

Finding the bone of contention

LONG-RUNNING conflicts are like springs which, bent out of their normal shape by always threaten a violent resumption of their original form.

This is what has waxed and waned over the past five years as an American attention. In particular, has wavered. The American engagement, after many wobbles, in Bosnia, Ireland and the Middle East has, for the moment, returned to zero.

THE turning point for the IRA may therefore have come when the Mitchell report seemed to sustain the British line that IRA arms were illegal.

difficult. The successful approach to peace means that the powerful have to moderate their pretensions while the weak have to amend their aspirations.

Peace theory says that you approach settlement by sideling issues of dominance, which are really the old war questions of who is winning and who is losing in a different form.

The sisters get tough



Joanna Coles

WE ALL know who they are and they are usually blonde and skinny. Sometimes, as in the case of Patricia Guppy, they drive black BMWs and talk "openly for the first time to the Daily Mail".

It Helen Pennant-Rae, wife of the disgraced deputy governor of the Bank of England, said as she trembled on the doorstep of the family home last autumn: "It's been a awful living like this. Knowing that at any moment she (Mary Ellen Synon — who finally flogged her bank of England to the Sunday Mirror) might go to the press. We have just been literally waiting for the knock on the door. It's been 10 months of keeping it to myself."

Smallweed



THE EXTRAORDINARY thing about the outcry which has greeted Tony Blair's plans to remove hereditary peers from the Lords is the feebleness of the case made against him. The Lord

Woodrow of Wyatt, for instance, who so movingly established his credentials as a world-class buffoon in a broad-casting BILL, argues that peers, and hereditaries in particular, often speak out for the People where the Commons fails. He didn't cite, as he might have, the vote on preserving great sporting institutions from a buy-up by Rupert Murdoch, since, in that case, the forces of righteousness defeated his side: and in any case, the life peers supported Saving Our Sport in greater proportions than did the hereds.

didn't. And here again, Woodrow's logic doesn't add up: for the Lords would still have backed the Bill had the vote been confined to life peers alone.

Then there's the favourite argument that keeping hereditary peers means you sometimes get young people in the Lords as you never do in the Commons, and that it's good that the young should feel they are represented.

I SER that Tony Blair's letter (signed by a suburban functionary, refusing to sit in the stocks clamped to a ball and chain while reading the Scott report, began: "Dear Alty") (not even a Mrj; itself, I imagine, a form of rebuke. This recalls a curious correspondence which has come Smallweed's way in which the Tory MP Peter Luff complains to the Labour deputy leader, John Prescott and the deputy leader emeritus, Roy Hattersley, that they've visited his Worcester constituency without giving him the forewarning expected from decent chaps.

in Leeds and girls in Gateshead are recruited to de-nigrate by the knowledge that the Marquess speaks in the Lords for their sex group is one which even Wood-henge at his wildest might hesitate to advance.

Suggestions that Hatt was there as a literary man, not a politician, do not, in the view of Luff, square with reports in his local paper that both MPs used their visits to slay him off for wishing to move to a safer constituency.

Snaphriver against Honeywether Gooseboote. Even real life comes up with better concoctions than Dame Babs Cartwheel. A piece by Douglas Morrison in the Guardian this week described the chairman of the planning committee is Nimrod Ping and opponents of a road plan he fancies are led by Keith Trampoline. Was Ping born a Ping, I wonder, or did he shed some monotonous name for a tiggler one? No such doubts about Trampoline, though, a name I'm sure he was born with. But what can it derive from? Though taking pleasure in trams is now widely prevalent among ageing nostalgics like me, it can't long. Could he have been around for that? There's a lot of that around in Brighton these days. I'm sorry to say.







Joan Armatrading has been in pop since 1973, yet not much more is known about her now than was then. The puzzle remains: how does this reclusive and private woman write songs about the intimacies of love?



Photograph: DAVID SILLITOE

# Singer who likes sound of silence

## The MEGAN TRESIDDER



INTERVIEW

JOAN Armatrading has a wonderful voice — a rich, bitter-sweet, chocolaty sound. She has written some of the most affecting pop songs there are about love and break-ups. But she is also the interviewee from hell; the kind who, when asked where she lives, answers "somewhere".

disdains the changing fashions in pop music and has always refused to tweak her image to please the marketing people. Her biggest hit was Love and Affection, released in 1976, which begins: "I am not in love but I am open to persuasion." Love and Affection was not inspired by her experience of interviews. She rarely gives them and only agreed to this one because, she says: "I am not stupid. I know what I have to do to sell my songs."

collector like some who only buy first editions in mint condition. I just buy a lot of them to read and then keep them. I like to get old comics — Love and Rockets, Tales From The Crypt, Superman, Batman, Fantastic Four, and one called Hate." Her sexuality has been a constant source of speculation but no one appears to know for sure who she has loved and her songs are deliberately neutral, the lovers non-gender specific. Her most recent album, What's Inside, is more personal than previous ones.

people very much. People have very nasty ways about them, don't you think? But I am much better now." She says she has learned to give human beings the benefit of the doubt, up to a point: "The trouble is then they sometimes go and do what you suspected they would do in the first place." She was born in St Kitts in 1950, the third child of six, and the only one to end up working in music. (What do the rest do? "Things.") In fact, her

for it. She had a happy childhood, she says, in which she preferred to be alone, people-watching. She remembers the entire school going off to see a pop star open a supermarket. "I was the only one who didn't go. It didn't seem that interesting to me. I was aware of music, of the Beatles, the Stones, but I never bought records, never had pin-ups in my bedroom." Armatrading left school at 15, and worked for two years as a typist, and then accidentally landed a part in the musical Hair, after accompanying a friend who was auditioning. She left Hair after a year to write music, at first in partnership with an old friend, Pam Nestor. "We wrote the songs, went to a record company, signed a contract," she says, expansively.

been called middle of the road. "Is that meant to be derogatory?" she asks, evenly. "I suppose it is but then isn't Eric Clapton middle of the road? Or Dire Straits? Or even U2? I just say my music is Joan Armatrading music." Where it came from, or who inspired it, she says, is a mystery. Her family wasn't particularly musical, though her father owned a guitar, which he refused to let her play as a child. "Not because I was being discouraged. Just because it was his."

at school, although I played with other children, I preferred to watch them playing with each other. I don't look at everyone as if there is a song there but it is how the songs happen. It could be anything that starts a song, a look in someone's face, a gesture. You don't phone Mr Inspiration and say meet me at half-past-two. It doesn't work like that. Like last year, when I went on tour to South Africa and met President Mandela, everyone thought I would be writing a song about that. But I didn't."

But you don't really want a political song from me, just for the sake of it. You want what I think I am good at." She adds: "I think about homelessness and I am appalled by it. But I don't want to write something trite. Everyday Boy is about someone who had AIDS. But until the moment of meeting that person who made me want to write that song, the idea of writing a song about AIDS never entered my head. I am not running away from political songs but I am not going to write them for the sake of it."

## I never just sing for the sake of singing, round the house. I am not a singing in the bath person

brother, Tony, is a West End actor. She grew up in Birmingham. (Where? "In a house.") Her father was a carpenter (and, later, a bus driver), her mother a cook. Her parents came to England when she was three, leaving her and her two older brothers behind in Antigua, split up among various relatives.

## As Hillingdon prepares to host its own Disney-style theme park, DAN GLAISTER doubts if British film has quite the allure of Hollywood

# The theme machine

IMAGINE the scene: it is the near future, you are cruising bumper-to-bumper at a futuristic 20 miles-per-hour along the A40. The children, in the back of the space cruiser, are becoming increasingly agitated. Then, out of the grey afternoon gloom, looms the sight that has brought a little bit of Hollywood to this dismal expanse of west London. Spelt out proudly in huge cardboard letters, a homage to its inspiration and funding, the single word "Hillingdon" dominates the landscape. "Welcome to Wurrter Brothers Movie World" reads the sign.

that, financial glitches, planning permission and cultural positivism aside, they intend to open a film and television studios-cum-theme park in Hillingdon was instantly denounced by three local Tory MPs and the Conservative leader of the local council. Their objection, rightly enough, was to the trampling underfoot of London's green belt policy. But the project's aim of bringing not only Hollywood favourites to its theme park, but of reviving a golden age of British film-making raises some intriguing possibilities.



Laugh a minute: anyone for the Norman Wisdom experience?

ers can seek solace in either Rick's Café (oh come on, you must remember that) or Dirty Harry's, the bar of the film of the character. But Lord Hollick, who has had a hell of a media week, promised more. "The park will celebrate the best, the dearest in British film-making," he said. "It will feature a number of entertainments featuring films made at Ealing, Shepperton, Pinewood and Elstree." Entertainments? What could

the media mogul mean? Will dusty old cronies give a special Victorian welcome to the Kind Hearts And Coronets Experience, where visitors have the opportunity to bump off fellow movie fans? Or should they prepare to strap in for the Titchfield Thunderbolt Ride — battling to keep the soot out of their eyes and the line open as private developers pull up the tracks. Jump off the train, climb the embankment and... join the Railway Children?

Those would be the high points. The Norman Wisdom Experience anybody? Cheeky chappies tripping up, spilling their tea on you. Or how about Carry On Up The Theme Park — a fun ride for all the family — rambly doctors indulging in serial bottom-pinching and doubles entendres to make the punters guffaw. Does British film history lead itself to Disneyfication? For starters, there's the weather. The proposal has anticipated this by announcing that the theme park will only open between April and October. When you travel abroad for Disneyism, not only is the weather better, but it is easier to suspend disbelief and join in the artifice. A weekend in Hillingdon does not have the same allure.

into modern merchandising I don't know." There is another problem. Why should anyone want to go to a site with no connection to Britain's film history, even if it does have unsurpassed transport links? "Pinewood is more likely to be able to make something out of the theme park, but this is coming out of nowhere," says Finney. None of this, of course, is new. "We had all the nonsense about Disney," says Winner, referring to unrealised plans for a Disney site in this country. "It's like the 14th replay." The last film theme park announcement came in November. Then it was a consortium called the Millennium Group, financed by a company known as "the Boots of Malaysia", which promised a state-of-the-art studio, plus theme park, in Watford.

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Mercer Ellington

Sad notes in the shadow of Duke

Mercer Ellington, who has died aged 76, was for much of his life a band leader without a band and a trumpeter who never took solos...

Among his "discoveries" were two trumpeters who later joined his father, Clark Terry and Cat Anderson...

By 1965, Duke needed a reliable road manager. Twice before Mercer had managed a band for his father's former trumpeter star, Count Williams...

Mercer knew his father was becoming increasingly dependent on him and was no longer able to live like a playboy, ignoring all responsibilities except his music...



Hitting the road again... Mercer Ellington, a musician whose chances of stardom shriveled...

Bob Shaw

Sci-fi through a kind eye

WHEN authors die they tend to become their works. Sooner or later, Bob Shaw, who has died aged 64...

He was also an important writer. He had worked in the steel and aircraft industries before his first novel, Night Walk, was published in 1967...

His masterpiece may be Other Days, Other Eyes (1972), his first book to originate in a lesbian hands a series could have been spun out of its brilliant, simple premise...

Orbisville (1975) — which placed human beings within a Dyson Sphere, Freeman Dyson's concept being that advanced civilisations might well enclose their sun within artificial biospheres...

Bob Shaw, writer, born December 31, 1931; died February 11, 1996

Weekend Birthdays



Buddy de Franco, jazz clarinetist, 73; Frumella Gee, actress, 46; Fay Godwin, landscape photographer, 66; Bernie Grant, Labour MP, 52...

WHICH crime novelist loathes milk and detests meat ("I won't go into butchers' shops. I find them quite nauseous")...

Tomorrow's birthdays: Rob Andrew, rugby footballer, 33; James Bredin, television archivist, 72; Helen Gurley Brown, author and magazine editor, 74...



Designer with a G-Plan... Tibor Reich working on his POTEKUR system

Tibor Reich Artist's Avon calling

TIBOR REICH, who has died aged 78, was one of the most innovative post-war textile designers and an immensely talented ceramicist photographer and graphic artist...

library to upholstery for the royal yacht, Britannia, in the American Hambro House of Design which launched him into the international market...

Tibor Reich, textile designer, born October 1, 1918; died February 3, 1996

Toby Neuburg

Past master

TOBY NEUBURG, who has died aged 71, was an outstanding scholar and a superb teacher, across a spectrum which encompassed primary schoolchildren and postgraduates...

ing, in Sussex, the son of poet and litterateur Victor Benjamin Neuburg. After the war he ended up in Germany as a sergeant-instructor in the Army Educational Corps...

Another Day

February 17, 1925: Roy and Jennifer Jenkins and Paul Chapman and his wife came to lunch. Talk about Mrs Thatcher being Shadow Conservative Leader...

comprehensive, rather than the private education at Winchester, which Dick himself hated. I don't know whether the suicide was connected with the publication of Dick's journals, but if it is, it is the third or fourth recent example of the influence of the actions of the dead on the living...

Face to Faith The sustenance in fasting

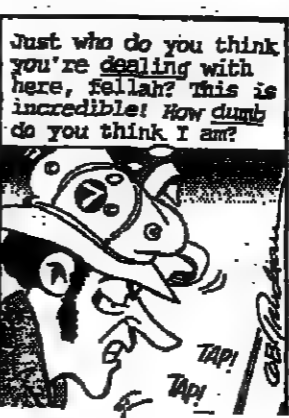
INTO Jerusalem, Moses fasted for a similar period before he went up the mountain. The early Christians, most of whom observed the Mosaic law, also fasted on the Day of Atonement...

and the world. No longer are they constantly absorbing sustenance from their surroundings. One of the effects of this is to compel them to realise their total dependence upon God and drink, so that they fervently thank their Creator for His unfailing provision of their daily needs...

Night of Rank, the Laylat al-Qadr, which, as the Koran relates, is "better than a thousand months". According to our ancestors, the whole of Ramadan is a most sublime divine gift granted by the Lord to his beloved Prophet and his Nation...

and misunderstandings of the past year and acts as a powerful energy for reform. When the month is over and the season of thanksgiving begins, the Muslim may face the future with new determination and strength, repentant of former bad habits and resolute that he will never return to them.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

كربلاء في الازل

# Money Guardian

## Government defeat keeps thousands off the street

Teresa Hunter

**H**UNDREDS of thousands of victims of bureaucratic bungling may have escaped the threat of repossession following a landmark defeat of the Government in the High Court.

A judge has ruled that Secretary of State for Social Security Peter Lilley acted unlawfully in clawing back overpaid mortgage interest from a man who takes care of his disabled wife.

The judgment will prove deeply embarrassing to a Government intent on cutting back on DSS administration staff. The ruling, by Mr Justice Brooke, was part of a judicial review of the case of Michael Golding, from west Wales, who receives a care allowance for looking after his disabled wife. Mortgage interest is also paid by the DSS.

His mortgage had always been kept up to date until 1992, when the DSS began making interest payments direct to mortgage lenders following an agreement with the Council for Mortgage Lenders.

But the DSS failed to reduce the interest paid on Mr Golding's behalf as rates fell — and he was not alone in this. Almost two years ago the Money Advice Association warned that at least 100,000 families were threatened by repossession because of DSS errors, and some had already lost their homes.

Mr Golding's solicitor, Duncan Forbes, said yesterday: "This judgment means that the Government has acted unlawfully in tens of thousands of cases where overpayments of mortgage interest have been recouped from benefit claimants. Many people have lost their homes as a result. Thousands of claimants may be entitled to reimbursement and even compensation."

A spokesman for the Halifax Building Society said the

problem arose because the DSS would not accept instructions from the lender. But borrowers were unaware they had a duty to notify the lender of rate changes. Mr Golding said: "We did receive a DSS letter saying that payments would fluctuate but that it would all be sorted out at the end of the year."

The Goldings had to meet a small part of the monthly mortgage repayment from their own pockets, and they adjusted their contribution after taking the DSS payment into account. This meant they were unwittingly failing to meet their share of the monthly repayments. The mistake was not discovered for nearly two years, by which time the overpayment had ballooned to £1,365. The Goldings merely received a letter

**'They are already living on the breadline. Clawbacks push them well below poverty levels'**

notifying them that their repayment would be changed. Only when the lender, National & Provincial, began repossession proceedings did the Goldings realise that the DSS had stopped making all payments, and they were now four months in arrears. Furthermore, the society had slapped a £300 arrears fee on the debt and threatened further charges.

With the help of the Disabled Law Society, Mr Golding took the case to judicial review, arguing that the Secretary of State had overstepped his powers when he stopped paying the mortgage interest. Mr Justice Brooke agreed, but the issue of com-

penation was unresolved as the DSS immediately signalled its intention to appeal.

Chris Pond, of the Low Pay Unit, said: "These errors have a devastating impact on the lives of the victims. They are already living on the breadline. Clawbacks push them well below poverty levels."

The only way Mr Golding could find the £40 monthly N&P required to clear the arrears was to cancel the lease on his wife's car. This caused real hardship and left them without any transport.

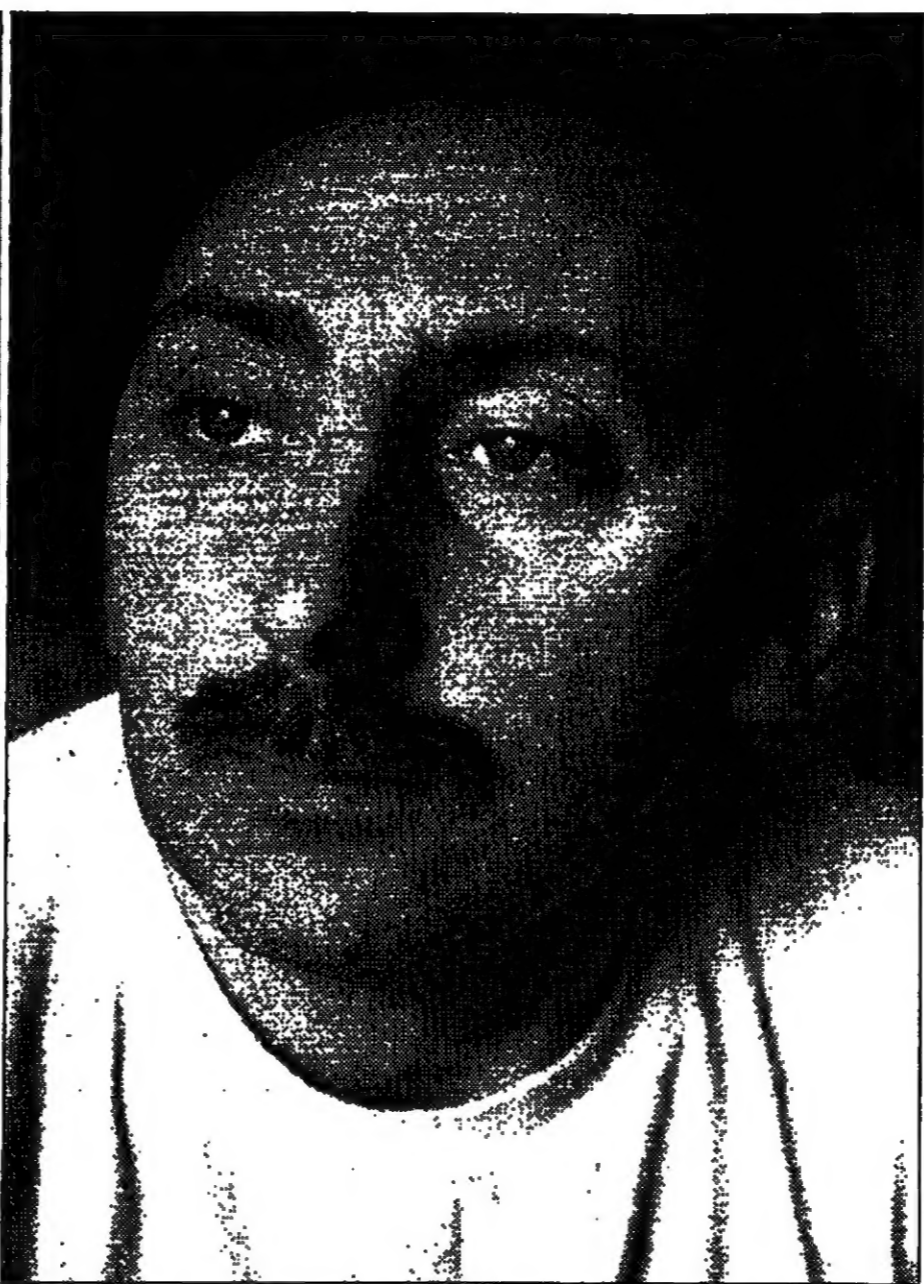
But mistakes on mortgage interest are just the tip of the benefit errors iceberg. More than 12,000 widows have been told their pensions will be cut by around a third because the DSS miscalculated the state earnings related element of their husbands' pensions.

Elsewhere, more than 35,000 severely disabled people failed to get benefits to buy medical care because the benefits agency staff failed to consider them for the award. Father-of-two Barry Briggs recently won a battle with the DSS after his invalidity benefit was overpaid for a year.

Mr Briggs, of Cadishead, Salford, has been unable to work since an industrial accident in 1991, when his right hand was damaged. When his girlfriend returned to work after having a baby, Mr Briggs, who is unable to read or write, told the DSS that she was working, and she wrote to them. However, the benefits were not adjusted for a year, when the DSS began to claw back the overpayment.

Mr Briggs appealed but the DSS delayed tribunal hearings. Officials claimed that nobody had notified them that his girlfriend was no longer a dependant. But this was rejected by the tribunal, which decided that Mr Briggs was a credible witness, and accepted his evidence.

Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes



Benefit and the doubt... Disabled Barry Briggs fought off DSS PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS THOMOND

## Gloomy forecast on house prices but hope for rates

Nick Parsodya

**H**OPES that the housing market is set for recovery this year have been dashed by the boss of one of Britain's biggest mortgage lenders.

Cheltenham & Gloucester chief executive Andrew Longhurst said there were no signs of any improvement in confidence, and he expected the number of transactions to remain broadly in line with last year's figure.

But he brought borrowers some good news with a prediction that mortgage rates would continue to fall throughout the year following a combination of lower interest rates and the growing mortgage price war.

In an effort to continue increasing its share of the mortgage market, Lloyds-owned C&G has launched a series of new fixed-rate mortgages without early redemption penalties. Fixed-rate mortgages typically charge borrowers between three and six months' interest if they surrender early.

The bank offers a two-year fixed-rate home loan at 5.99 per cent and another at 6.99 per cent fixed for three years. The bank has a five-year deal fixed at 7.99 per cent. There are no valuation fees or mortgage indemnity premiums to pay. However, it will cost borrowers a £500 non-refundable reservation charge to find out if they have been allocated a mortgage.

New borrowers will need a down-payment of 10 per cent of the value of the house. Existing Lloyds Bank or Cheltenham & Gloucester borrowers pay the usual 5 per cent deposit.

National & Provincial offers mortgages fixed at 2.65 per cent for a year and at 5.15 per cent fixed for two years. For house buyers who prefer constant repayments for the next five years, the society has a deal fixed at 7.49 per cent. Cash-strapped buyers can

opt for the society's penny mortgage, whereby monthly repayments are charged at a penny for the first six months and the valuation of the property is free. Thereafter the mortgage reverts to its standard variable rate. Those buyers who prefer to borrow at its current variable rate of 7.54 per cent can opt for its cash-back deal, whereby it will reimburse up to £7,500 or 5.2 per cent of the value of the loan.

Bristol & West has come up with a home loan at 0.95 per cent fixed until January 31, 1997, and another two-year deal whereby borrowers pay 3.99 per cent in the first year and 5.99 per cent in the second year. Alternatively, the lender has a fixed-rate deal stretching to February 28, 2001, at 6.99 per cent.

Insurance giant General Accident has launched a fixed-rate mortgage at 5.99 per cent until March 1, 1998. Rival insurer Legal & General offers a variable rate mortgage at 6.49 per cent (APR 6.7) and its Flexible Reserve Mortgage at 6.59 per cent (APR 6.8), whereby borrowers make additional payments against their mortgage account whenever circumstances allow a reduction in the term of the mortgage.

Bank of Scotland has launched a flexible package through its direct mortgage business. Borrowers have the option either to over-pay or under-pay their monthly repayments. Additionally, the scheme has a facility to break off mortgage repayments for up to six months, provided the unpaid amount is no more than 5 per cent of the value of the mortgage.

Lambeth Building Society is offering loyal existing borrowers a 0.5 per cent discount off its current rate of 7.49 per cent if they remortgage with the society.

Elsewhere, financial adviser Berry Birch & Noble has produced a guide to mortgages available free by calling 0181-776-1287, or 0131-225-2122 for house buyers in Scotland.

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Car dealers may buy cheap and resell within EU, court rules

UNSOLD cars lined up... Competition is expected to intensify following a European Court ruling upholding independent dealers' right to buy cars in the cheapest European markets for resale elsewhere in the EU, writes Julie Wolf.

The court rejected a bid by franchised dealerships to prevent such sales on the grounds that they undermine exclusive dealership networks, which are allowed under a special exemption from European competition laws. The judge

stated that the EU's single market allows independent dealers to shop around for the best bargain. The ruling is likely to encourage independent dealers in strong currency nations such as France to purchase cars in EU mem-

ber states with weak currencies, especially Italy. The judgment could fuel calls by French industry for financial help to counter competition from companies that benefit from currency devaluations. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER SAMBER

# As Germany exports jobs, flexibility's all in the mind

## COMMENTARY/The stiff challenge of global competition has led to more rhetoric than realism from the Bonn government, says Ian Traynor

AST week's bad news in Germany was the unemployment numbers soaring through the four-million threshold—and that's the official figure. Then there was the huge hole being punched in the national pensions kitty by early retirement.

This week's bad news began with a respected think-tank, the German Economics Institute (DIW), saying that the economy is not only stagnating, or experiencing what the government likes to call "a pause in growth", but is actually moving into recession. The institute predicts 1 per cent shrinkage in 1996's first quarter compared with the last quarter of 1995 and a 0.5 per cent fall against a year ago.

is "either fooling himself or fooling everyone else". The challenge and the menace, as cited by every governing politician from Chancellor Kohl downwards, is globalisation. "Millions of people who are prepared to compete with us for a third or a tenth of our wages are virtually sitting alongside us at the wage bargaining table. We've become world champions in exporting jobs," the foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, proclaimed in a recent speech. "Globalisation means unprecedented worldwide competition for products, labour costs, and locations."

Confronted by the dripped of ever grimmer indices, the government response has been to look on the bright side. It has released a torrent of overlapping blueprints promising to have unemployment by the millennium's turn, phase out early retirement while taking youngsters off the dole queues, spark new businesses through hours in the making risk capital available.

And all the time, of course, the government is pledging to cut the state debt level and budget deficit to meet the single European currency criteria by the end of next year.

is "flexibilisation". Every time Mr Kohl addresses the Bundestag he invokes the vision of a new era of German entrepreneurship parallel to the post-war boom and even to the Bismarckian industrialisation surge of the 1870s. What Germany needs, he avers, is a new young generation of dynamic risk-takers. The government role is to shred the red tape, promote flexibility, deregulate, and generate a context in which these young wizards can prosper.

# Increased US competition and Dutch debt crisis challenge Europe's aircraft industry France goes on the offensive in battle for defence contracts

FRANCE'S powerful defence industry is facing a shake-out as radical as that suffered by its British counterpart during the late eighties and early nineties. Government support has meant that the French defence establishment has been able to ride out both the recession and the restructuring elsewhere that followed the end of the cold war.

Unlike Britain, the French government appears keen to have an influential role in the restructuring. It has already asked industry leaders for their proposals and is expected to determine details of its own policies by the middle of the year.

could almost go to Lockheed Martin and outfit your whole country," according to one US defence analyst. Nor has the US group made any secret of its desire to make acquisitions in Europe. Earlier this month, Alain Gomez, the chief executive of Thomson, one of France's leading defence suppliers, warned the French senate that Europe's best defence against the US challenge lay in the creation of large defence groupings.

In the French press that Thomson has met British Aerospace, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), Aerospatiale and GEC-Marconi to discuss the challenge presented by the US companies.

BAA, on the grounds that the creation of a "national champion" would undermine competition. This week a MoD spokesman said that mergers were a matter for the industry but value for money and competition remained the linchpins of procurement policy.

# Fokker unions expect bid to land soon

DUTCH aircraft manufacturer Fokker's fight for survival is set to enter a decisive phase over the next few days. Union sources have indicated that a bid could be on the way shortly, with the Canadian company Bombardier tipped as the most likely candidate.

might make a move have been fuelled by reports that executives from the Canadian company are due to visit Fokker over the weekend.

Further funds to the ailing aircraft manufacturer after failing to agree the terms of a rescue package with the Dutch government, which also has a stake in Fokker.

payments from the Dutch government, though the 365 million guilders (£146 million) of funding will run out around the end of the month.

ker closes, while Belfast-based Short Brothers, which is owned by Bombardier and makes wings for Fokker, has issued notices warning of up to 1,500 possible job losses.

# Family may take over the controls at Dornier

THE Dornier family may consider resuming control of the aircraft maker which bears its name if the present owner, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), pulls out.

Benz AG, paid the Dorniers DM440 million (£195 million) for a majority stake in the late 1980s and is reported to have paid an extra DM570 million to buy out some of the family's voting rights.

The family has been critical of Dasa's handling of Dornier and when asked if the family might take over the company, Martine Dornier-Tiefenthaler replied: "That might be the case."

40 per cent of the shares of Scarmanagans Shipyards would pass to the workforce, while the rest would pass to the National Bank for Industrial Development, a state-owned investment bank.

Trade unions at French work next summer Vulkan are calling for a day of action this month ahead of what is expected to be a difficult round of pay talks with the company. They said the protest would "have the strength of a warning".

# British bid for Greek shipyards

TWO UK companies are among the leading contenders for a five-year contract to manage the state-owned Scarmanagans shipyards in Greece.

and Ferrostaal. The Scarmanagans yards, hit by increased costs and falling revenue, faced bankruptcy last October after the announcement that European competition laws prevented state aid.

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# Stodgy pasta empire set for strict slimming cure

## The Italian family firm of Barilla is slashing prices to stem falling sales. JOHN GLOVER asks if it means war

BEING forced to slim is a depressing business for anyone. If you make one third of Italy's pasta, half its ready-made sauces and 40 per cent of its biscuits—as Barilla does—a diet is the unkindest cut of all.

problems were already looming when Barilla senior died. Since then, the company has been on meagre rations, with falling sales and dwindling profits. The latter dived from 15 billion lire (€1 million) in 1994 to 80 billion lire in 1995. Sales were stagnant at about 3.3 trillion lire.

to buttress P&G's ailing brands. In 1993 came the closure of 30 factories and 13,000 lay-offs.

# Update

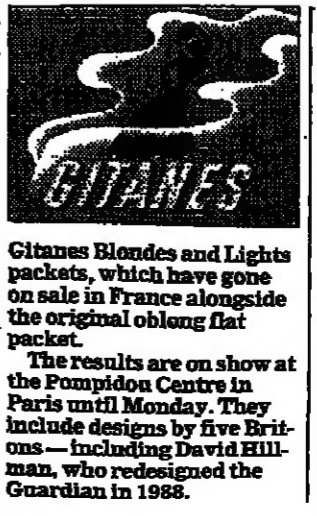
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# Gitanes get case of blues

ALEX DUVAL SMITH in Paris AMERICANISM— that dreaded phenomenon—has claimed another cultural victim: the quintessentially French cigarette, Gitane.



Hillman was one of only two designers who did not use "Gitane blue"—the background colour against which the silhouette of a dancing gypsy was laid by Max Ponty in 1947.

A cartoon illustration titled 'Eurocats' showing a man in a suit talking to a man in a uniform. The man in the suit says: 'SO AS FROM TODAY, WE'RE PUTTING A STOP TO PROMOTIONAL GIFTS'. The man in the uniform replies: 'WHYS THAT?'. The man in the suit says: 'THEY'VE BEEN GETTING OUT OF HAND'. The man in the uniform replies: 'Free GIANT PEPPER MILL'. The cartoon is signed 'LEERING WATNER'.

Victory for homeowners, page 21

Buyer for Childrens World, page 22

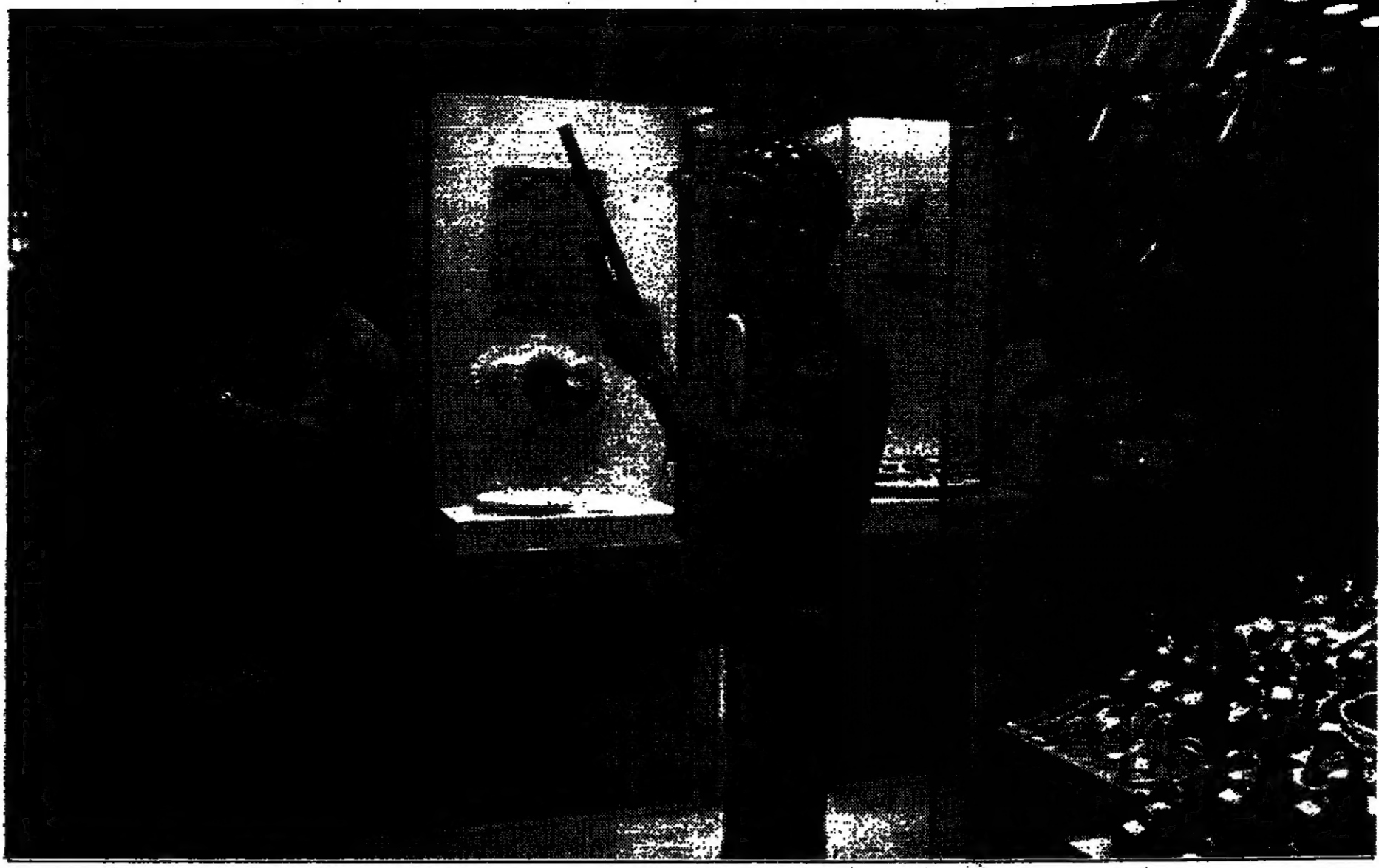
Defence shake-out in France, page 23

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Golden times in a world of chaos and greed

To look at the price of bullion, you might think that a third world war was on the way. DAN ATKINSON examines the speculators



Secure investment... Gold stocks in the hedonistic state of Hong Kong protected by armed security guards

Sky-high prices fail to provide glister for the jewel of British mines

Dan Atkinson

FOR Britain's gold-mining industry, the prospect of spectacular rises in the gold price is a mixed blessing.

Some sort of price take-off was a racing certainty. Very broadly speaking, in the developed world - which accounts for about 40 per cent of gold demand - jewellery-related sales do well when times are good and investment-related demand is buoyant when times are bad.

But in the great gold markets of the developing world - in particular the Middle East, India, China and the Far East - there is neither the same distinction between jewellery and investment, nor between good times and bad.

Gold in all forms is bought as it can be afforded, whatever the weather, as the backbone of an individual's portfolio of wealth.

So, for anyone hoping that the bullion price will rise, the best possible combination of

circumstances would include inflation fears in the west, greater spending on jewellery, very strong growth in the east, a wildly US monetary policy (a presidential election would help as well) and a general rise in the level of instability (wars, invasions, scare-mongering) around the world.

BY HAPPY chance - if that is a suitable term - most of these factors have clicked into place in the first few weeks of this year.

And in the finest traditions of the bullion market, the instability without is mirrored by chronic rumour-mongering of instability within.

A Brazilian Nick Leeson is said to have struck the country's central bank with a catastrophic 2,000-tonne short position, threatening multi-million dollar losses.

So, for anyone hoping that the bullion price will rise, the best possible combination of

as a steady flooding of gold is good news. But a rapid rise, followed by the inevitable crash, is not helpful either to Mr Phelps and his team, or to the owners of the Hong Kong bullion.

There is the much greater sophistication of the market's big players, who, using hedging techniques, help smooth out price movements.

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GREEK and Turkish warships square off in the Aegean Sea. China menaces Taiwan and the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz is dispatched to the trouble zone.

All in all, a satisfactory new year for anyone holding large amounts of gold. The conventional view has it that bad news is good news for the gold price, and the better the better.

prospect of further base-rate cuts. Merrill Lynch, with admirable bluntness, advised clients on February 7: "Central banks are relaxing. Buy gold."

Ironically, the possibility of currency union covering at least part of the EU may also be helping the gold price upwards. A European Central Bank will be a little restricted in its choice of reserve assets

torque shortfall in supply versus demand.

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The Guardian Weekly subscription information, including rates for 6 months and 1 year, and contact details for subscriptions.

Breaking the chain - An article by Dan Atkinson discussing the concept of a chain letter and its impact on society.

Quick Crossword No. 8051 - A crossword puzzle with clues and a grid.

Advertisement for Shephard University, featuring text like 'Major to protect Waldeg' and 'Tug struggle'.

